■ SUPER/C2
We've all heard from Edsa heroes, here's someone who wasn't there

■ NEWS/A2
Erap barricades self in San Juan hospital room

■ NEWS/A2
Rebellion charges filed against Gringo

■ BUSINESS/B1
Gov't sees 25% jump in income taxes; P401-B collection expected

Emergency rule spooks peso, stocks, friends, foes

By TJ Burgonio, Cynthia D. Balana, Philip Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

ALL IT TOOK WAS ABOUT FIVE MINUTES FOR President Macapagal-Arroyo to shake up the country's financial markets, the Roman Catholic Church and both Houses of Congress. That was the time it took her to read her announcement that she had declared emergency rule.

EMERGENCY A4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, February 25, 2006 ★★ sections / Vol. 21 / No. 79 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Kris, boyfriend James steal show in Ayala rites

By Tarra V. Quismundo

PEOPLE WHO WERE watching out for developments on Ayala Avenue yesterday were rewarded with a star-struck moment at 3:18 p.m.

As opposition leaders trickled in for the com-

KRIS A6

JUST LIKE 20 YEARS AGO, yellow confetti rains on Ayala Avenue as ex-President Cory Aquino marches toward the Ninoy Aquino Monument to remind the nation that the journey to Edsa I began on the avenue where her husband was martyred for democracy.

Rallies defy GMA order

'Conspiracy' triggers state of emergency

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Armando N. Mercado

CLAIMING AN ALLIANCE OF SOLDIERS, opposition politicians and communist rebels were plotting to overthrow her, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday proclaimed a state of emergency and demanded obedience to all decrees and orders "promulgated by me personally."

In declaring the emergency, Ms Arroyo invoked a constitutional provision which empowers her to

FORUM A4

PRESIDENT ARROYO EXPLAINS THE WHY OF Proclamation No. 1017: "Systematic conspiracy" of the opposition in concert with leftists and rightists possibly with the aid of the national media.

Protests dispersed, 22 nabbed, charged

By DJ Yap, Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PUBLIC DEFIANCE MARKED THE state of emergency declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday, with street protesters scuffling with antiriot police and at least 22 of them arrested.

"We have so many leaders today, not least of which is the fact that in January 2001, we were on

PROTESTS A6

1017: Veiled warning to some segments of media?

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

PROCLAMATION NO. 1017 EMbodies two topics. First, it represents the President's assessment of the national situation. Briefly, she sees Left, Right and Center "in tactical alliance and engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy to bring down the duly constituted government elected in May 2004."

ANALYSIS

She sees this conspiracy as recklessly aided and abetted "by certain segments of the national media."

Second, she puts down her re-

RIGHTS A4

Inside story: Senga refused to join coup

By Gerry Lirio and Pia Zamora

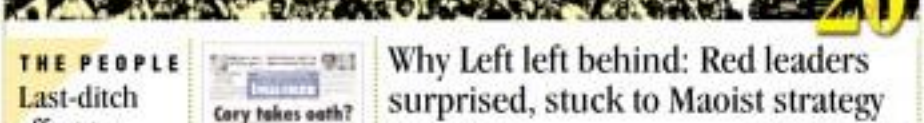
"SIR, THEY ARE ALL WAITING for you. Time to act."

That was Brig Gen. Danilo Lim talking to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga last Thursday night inside Camp Aguinaldo—on the eve of President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration about an alleged plot to oust her involving soldiers.

Lim, head of the Scout Rangers Regiment based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, was referring to at least three opposition groups gathered in three different areas in Metro Manila waiting for Senga to withdraw support from the President.

Stationed in Greenhills in San Juan, Quezon City and in a southern Metro town, the anti-Arroyo leaders had waited for hours. By 2 a.m. yesterday they received word that Senga had rejected Lim's overtures, according to opposition leaders privy to the meeting of the two generals.

INSIDE A6



Media fear censorship, intimidation

By Norman Bordadora and Dante L. Lucas

MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS AND communicators warned yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation of a state of emergency could usher in a new era of press censorship and intimidation as a regulatory body warned it would recommend closure of radio and television stations that broadcast reports which allegedly incite to sedition or rebellion.

"We're entering a period of censorship and intimidation rarer before seen since the 1970s and the 1980s," said Manuel L. Quezon III, a columnist of the In-

MEDIA A6

THE PEOPLE

Last-ditch effort to mobilize

By Raymund Burgos

IT WAS ON THE fourth day of the Edsa revolution that the national democrats (NatDem) led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Bagong Al-

LAST EDITION A13

FEB. 25, 1986 issue, the last day of the People Power Revolt.

Why Left left behind: Red leaders surprised, stuck to Maoist strategy

By Jaja V. Sarmiento Jr.

FOR THE MOST PART OF THE '70S AND THE first half of the '80s, the Left was at the forefront of the struggle to oust the Marcos regime.

At a cost of so many lives in its cadres and supporters, the Left organized various sectors for protests such as rallies, welgang bayan (general strike) and kalbayan (long march) across the country while most of Marcos's political opponents from the padlocked Congress lay low or were in exile in the United States.

By early 1986, it is estimated that some 10 million people could be directly influenced, organized or mobilized by the Left through its legal and underground organizations, making it one of the most formidable foes of the Marcos regime.

But when the final push for the ouster of Marcos came, the Left is generally perceived as not the decisive force it was supposed to be.

Edsa I—the coup attempt that turned into an uprising—caught the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) flatfooted, its leadership unable to issue instructions to its forces.

WHY LEFT? A19

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

OAKWOOD MUTINY

Rebellion charges filed vs Gringo

By Armando N. Nocum

STATE PROSECUTORS FILED coup d'etat and rebellion charges against Sen. Gregorio Honasan before the Makati Regional Trial Court yesterday, hours after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the former soldier was among the first to be arrested in the wake of the President's declaration of a state of emergency.

The Department of Justice prosecutors recommended no bail for Honasan, who was specifically indicted for his alleged part in the failed July 2003 Oakwood Mutiny. Although the four-page indictment was dated Jan. 18, it was filed only at 4:30 p.m. yesterday.

Charged with Honasan were four retired military officers — Col. Ernesto Marañon, Capt Felix Turingan, Col. Virgilio Simoun and Col. Romeo Lazo, all officials of Philippine Constitution Brotherhood Inc.

Also named in the charge sheet were members of Honasan's staff at the Senate identified as George Ongkiko and Lina Reyes along with a number John and Jane Does.

"[T]he Oakwood mutiny is a component of a larger planned unlit attack to grab power from the government. ...[T]he evidence gathered by the AFP-PNP (Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police) established a conspiracy planned, executed and implemented through mass and clandestine recruitment of military and civilian participants," the charge sheet said.

It said Honasan and his co-accused joined forces with the Magdalo mutineers in taking over the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati on July 27, 2003.

Honasan did not file a counter-affidavit to answer the charges before DOJ prosecutors despite an order issued by the DOJ for him to do so on February, the prosecutors said.

HONASAN: No bail recommended

Erap barricades self in hospital

'I will not go with you. We will all die here,' he tells escorts

SUPPORTERS of former President Joseph Estrada keep vigil outside the San Juan Medical Center where the deposed president is making medical treatment for an eye ailment

DEPOSED PRESIDENT ESTRADA barricaded himself inside his hospital room at the San Juan Medical Center after his police escorts failed to force him to return to his confinement house in Tanay, Rizal, early yesterday morning.

In an interview with ABS-CBN radio, Estrada said he was woken up at about 3 a.m. with a loud banging at the door by Chief Supt. Edgardo Bertumol, director of the Philippine National Police Security and Protection Office, and his men.

"I will not go with you. I will warn, we will all die here," the ex-movie actor quoted himself as telling Bertumol.

Estrada said Bertumol could not produce an order from the Sandiganbayan directing the police to return him to detention in Tanay.

He said it was the Sandiganbayan Special Division that allowed him to be taken to the hospital, and only the anti-graft court trying him on plunder and perjury charges could order him back.

Estrada said that after Bertumol's attempt to take him, he decided to lock himself inside the hospital room.

Batasbagal Bayan Sheriff Ed Urrutia said he was informed that the PNP would no longer attempt to return Estrada to Tanay, until after his operations, or a court order was issued to that effect. He said the police would just secure Estrada inside the hospital.

Meanwhile, some 500 Estrada supporters surrounded the hospital to "protect the President" from his police escorts.

According to San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Estrada's son, they would not allow Estrada's escorts to "illegally" take him away.

Estrada was brought to the ICMC Thursday after complaining of severe pain in his eye. He is scheduled for eye surgery and expects to remain in the hospital until Tuesday.

His doctor, Lorenzo Rocano, said the deposed leader would have to undergo surgery again to remove a spot in one eye. Aside from monkey spit, Estrada underwent cataract surgery to remove excess skin in his eye lids.

In the radio interview, Estrada urged the people to fight for their rights. He claimed the government was curtailing his rights to be heard.

He said the people should not stop in their quest for truth and for freedom from power.

He said he was now speaking out after his long silence because he could no longer bear the poverty that the people were suffering.

He said the people had had enough of the alleged corruption and irregularities in government. *Nikko P. Flores and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Security adviser tags Erap

By Nikko Dizon

NATIONAL SECURITY Adviser Norberto Gonzales yesterday alleged that former President Joseph Estrada had "a second-the-failed "military adventurism" that was aimed to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We know that he has given many money to the," Gonzales told reporters following a briefing of the members of the diplomatic corps as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) late yesterday afternoon.

"We think he [Estrada] gave money to Army Scout Ranger Brig. Gen. Danny Lim," Gonzales told reporters.

Lim was placed under the custody of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga early yesterday morning.

Pilars asked what charges Estrada could face, Gonzales replied: "What do you mad to charge President Estrada for? He's already been charged and he is detained."

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'La Niña' not so bad, says Pag-asa

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LA NIÑA PREdicted to hit the country in coming months would not be as severe as that of 1998 which caused flash floods that killed thousands of people and destroyed hundreds of millions of pesos' worth of crops, the weather bureau said.

All indications, including the late development of the climatic conditions and the amount of rainfall, show that the developing La Niña would be more like that of 1995, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"The 2005-2006 developing La Niña is more similar to the 1995-1996 La Niña... which suggests a very wet March-May 2006 period," Pagasa climatology chief Prisco G. Villariz said.

La Niña is a term used by meteorologists to describe unusually cool sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean which spurs heavy rains. Opposite to the atmospheric pressure for the Pacific, calculated by computing air pressure between Tahiti and Darwin, Australia, an El Niño event.

"The current situation is different from past events. It's very uncertain in terms of impacts and implications... La Niña is developing so late in the year, which is very unusual," Villariz said.

Pagasa has warned that areas in the eastern seaboard would be hardest hit by the looming La Niña, among them Caraga, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Southern Luzon, Aurora del Norte and Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, and the Bicol peninsula.

On Friday last week, a landslide caused by heavy rains in Sr. Bernard, Southern Leyte has already buried an entire village of 1,000 people.

The rains which drenched Mindoro, Bicol, Catanduanes, Eastern Visayas, Iloilo and Quezon in December last year have destroyed 2500 million worth of crops and adversely affected some 500,000 families.

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NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEATH
1. Manuel A. Martin, Jr.	Kandaman, Mandaluyong City	Manuel Arcay Martin	July 14, 2005
2. Fernando Agbayani	San Magdalena, Pasay City	Fernando Agbayani	January 7, 2006
3. Amelia Arcayan	Unknown	Amelia P. Arcayan	October 3, 2005
4. Nicolas Abadi	Unknown	Nicolas Cunanan Abadi	April 18, 2005
5. Celso Cruz, Jr.	Bulo, Norzagaray, Bulacan	Celso Cruz	April 15, 2005
6. Rufino Gregorio	Unknown	Rufino Gregorio	May 20, 2005
7. Charles Cabi, Enriquez	Unit 8, Cabi Cabi Bldg., Mandaluyong City	Wilfredo G. Enriquez	January 26, 2006
8. Claudio Arcega	Malolos	Alfonso Arcega	September 23, 2005
9. Valeriano Cayetano, Jr.	19-A Aldeo St., Cubao, Quezon City	Joseph E. Estrada	November 21, 2005
10. Lucio Salazar	Unknown	Corazon Salazar	October 21, 2005
11. Leonor Cabus	Iloilo City	Leo Cabus	May 24, 2005
12. Isaac Dalupa	Cabanatuan City, Magsaysay, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija	Isaac Dalupa	September 17, 2005
13. Rosa Vargas Dalmacio	Manila	Leo Cabus	May 1, 2005
14. Joseph	Tagbilaran City, Cebu	Joseph Ang	January 11, 2006
15. Edwin B. Lawsin	Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	Edwin Bautista Lawsin	September 6, 2005
16. Elsa Bocala	17 Aurora St., Bo. Magsaysay, Tarlac, Tarlac	Wilfredo C. Bocala	June 30, 2005
17. Jose Pedro A. Gomez	Unknown	Celso S. Gomez	August 23, 2005
18. Celedio T. Mesa	Sto. Cristo, Tarlac City	Esperanza A. Mesa	August 18, 2005
19. Dolores S. Pineda	Bicol	Dolores Pineda	July 23, 2005
20. Pedro Lopez	Unknown	Edward P. Lopez	December 12, 2005
21. Teresa Gatbonton	Unknown	Rufino Gatbonton	November 2, 2005
22. Leonor A. Arcega	201-A E. Rod. Ave., San Pedro, Laguna	Leonor Arcega	January 16, 2006
23. Lolita Pilapil	Unknown	Ramiro Pilapil	March 2005
24. Felicisimo L. Torres	37-1, 10 Casablanca St., Cubao, Quezon City	Manuel C. Torres	October 21, 2005
25. Dolor Sarmiento	Kalaw, Sampaloc, Tarlac	Dolor Sarmiento	April 18, 2005
26. Jesus Jose	Unknown	Jesus Jose	January 1, 2006
27. Francisco Villanueva	Bulo, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija	Francisco C. Villanueva	June 21, 2005

— Nothing Follows —

CHIEF ARGHINTO AGO, President Arroyo and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, head of the elite Scout Rangers Regiment, meet on talking terms during her visit in Laur, Nueva Ecija.

ROOTERS at the Palace include House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

Foiled coup prompts state of emergency

By Arroyo

temporarily take over public utilities or businesses imbued with "public interest," including the media.

The Presidency appeared on television to announce Proclamation No. 1017 after a long night during which an aide said she went without sleep as she could talk with her close military and civilian advisers and preside over an emergency Cabinet meeting at 2 a.m.

Neither Ms Arroyo nor her advisers gave any proof to back her contention that the political opposition, "military adventurists" and communist rebels were working together to unseat her.

President as Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said arrest orders had been issued against "eight to 10 individuals, including military officials, politicians and civilian businessmen."

In hiding

He said they were believed to have all gone into hiding.

"There is evidence that [former President Joseph] Estrada is part of the coup plan," Defensor said.

He said that Estrada had been in contact with Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, head of the elite Scout Rangers regiment who had been placed in custody for allegedly enticing soldiers to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

"We will show that at the proper time," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said when asked what proof Malacañang had to back Ms Arroyo's allegation of an unholy alliance among her political opponents, soldiers and the communist New People's Army.

Calibrated action

"This is no time for proving," Gonzalez added. "Go to the Supreme Court. Question this and we will offer the proof."

"What can I say to you? You are not the court," he said in reply to an insistent question.

Gonzalez did not rule out warrantless arrests under a state of national emergency more than would be done even without such a proclamation.

But he said the Palace would "calibrate" its actions.

"It won't be that we will arrest and just arrest," he said.

Gonzalez told the hearers that the state of emergency was just "more/by power that the President can make use of where the necessity arises."

Plot thwarted

"It's just a notice to the whole world that I have this power and I will use it if necessary," he said.

Taking over a facility "will depend on the need/on public interest," he said.

Gonzalez said under the emergency, the President has "additional powers if she will warn the limits."

In her address to the nation, Ms Arroyo at one point said the plot had been thwarted but Defensor later that the supposed conspiracy could still be active.

Warning to plotters

"Some had tried to break out of the Armed Forces chain of command ... and establish a regime outside of the Constitution. We have broken up this plot," she said in Filipino.

But she also said: "This is no warning on the plotters/my against the people. Do not try/machery, the full force of the law will befall on you."

Ms Arroyo signed the proclamation after meeting with the National Security Council attended by top Cabinet and military officials in Malacañang.

The President cited Section 18, Article 7 of the Constitution which empowers the President as "call out [the] Armed Forces to prevent or suppress lawless ... and Section 17 Article 12 of the Charter authorizing her to "temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

"USUAL SUSPECT" Col. Artemio Querubin, Marine brigade commander in Luzon del Sur.

Orders and decrees

Ms Arroyo ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines "to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well as any act of insurrection or rebellion, and to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

Media warned

She said: "Over these past months, elements in the political opposition have conspired with authoritarians of the extreme left represented by the NDF-CPP-NPA and the extreme Right, represented by military adventurists—the historical enemies of the democratic Philippine state—who have come to-

gether with some in the political opposition in an unholy alliance and engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy over a broad front to bring down the duly constituted government elected in May 2004."

Saying these alleged conspirators had hurt the Philippine economy, she turned on the media.

"The claims of these elements have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the national media," she said.

In a briefing, Malacañang officials warned that newspapers, radio and television stations found risks of being taken over by the government if they aired inaccurate reports that violated state security measures. (See related story on Page A13.)

"If, for example, anonymous callers, speaking on behalf of the other group, will be called by media without basis, then that would be enough basis for the government to intervene," Defensor said.

"Clearly, that is a probability based on the order," said Defensor. "This is an abnormal situation. Media has a critical role in this situation."

"[Closing down a media outfit] depends on [how its operations] will be carried out. We hope at this point there will be no interviews that will be put out relating to the extreme Right and Left in the present situation," said Defensor.

Palace guidelines

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government might come up with guidelines that would lay down the rules on how media should treat interviews with communists and adventurist soldiers.

"We respect the freedom of the press but we expect this freedom to be exercised more responsibly," Bunye said.

Malacañang later announced cancellation of all programs and activities related to the 20th anniversary of Edsa "People Power I" revolt.

No crackdown yet

Gonzalez explained that rebel returning unarmed were political rallies "which are actually those for purposes of destabilization."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita issued General Order No. 5 to implement Proclamation No. 1017.

"To give effect to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the face of the national emergency, to maintain public peace, order and safety and to prevent and suppress lawless violence," Bunye said.

Talking later with reporters, Justice Secretary Gonzalez said there were no existing plans to arrest media persons and take over media agencies critical of the Arroyo administration even if the "national unity" had been cited in the proclamation as among those lodging her destabilization.

"Only [Bunye]. That's coz in the words," he said.

Honasan, Montayre

Gonzalez also revealed that they were contemplating on arresting former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and former chief security under Linda Ditantaran, pro-Erap millionaire banker Ronald Lumbao and businessmen financing destabilization moves against the government.

Gonzalez denied there were any treasonable plans to take over key industries.

Open-ended

"We have to calibrate our actions there. We have to take into consideration its effect on the economy itself. This is an abnormal [law]," he said.

Asked how long Proclamation No. 1017 will last, Gonzalez replied: "This is open-ended ... depending on the judgment call of the President. But we have to take into consideration the public interest, until circumstances improve."

Emergency rule spooks peso, stocks, friends, foes

By Arroyo

Markets slumped across the board yesterday as investors feared for more political turmoil this weekend.

The peso fell to 55.20, its lowest level in nearly four weeks, from Thursday's close of 54.56, prompting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to intervene, dealers said.

Share prices retreated by 21.39 points to its lowest in more than two weeks while Philippine sovereign bonds weakened.

BSP governor Amando Tetangco said they are watching developments in the foreign exchange market.

"We are watching market developments," Tetangco told reporters.

Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim expressed hope for a quick and peaceful resolution to the political tension for the sake of the stock market and the country.

Ms Arroyo imposed emergency rule which allows arrests without warrants and an extension of detention without charge.

"With the imposition of the state of emergency in the Philippines, not only will foreign investor sentiment take a hit, at least for the near term, but many of the other factors that were supporting the peso could also fade temporarily," Investa Bank EBS said in a report.

Friday's level was the peso's lowest closing level since Jan. 30 when it traded at 55.20.

"What the alleged coup failed to do, in terms of weakening the peso, the President managed to do with the declaration of a state of emergency," said Joseph Tan, regional economist at Standard Chartered Bank.

The stock market traded lower for most of the session, with selling more intense following the President's announcement, but bargain hunting limited the day's fall.

The composite index ended down 21.39 points to 2,869.05. Losers swamped gainers 99 to six.

Cardinal's concern

Senior Roman Catholic church leaders expressed concern over the President's declaration of a state of emergency.

"It doesn't look good if we government declares a state of emergency," said Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, who was presented in confidant by the declaration this week.

"That could be a big provocation from among the commanding pastors to our citizens," he said in a statement.

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said he hoped the state of emergency would not last long and there would be no violations of human rights.

Opposition party Bayan, meanwhile, yesterday slammed Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency.

"Now is the time for all peace-loving citizens to avail Gloria's warning remark with our democratic values," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said. "There's absolutely no basis except for bad for power," he said.

'Grave doubts'

"This is a sad day for democracy," Sen. Jamby Madrigal said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and his mother Sen. Loi Ejercito warned that the declaration could be a prelude to a "pseudo-dictatorship."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Senators Manuel Roxas II and Pro Lacierdas also expressed alarm over the proclamation.

"We have grave doubts about the factual basis for the actions provided by Proclamation No. 1017. We therefore demand its revocation," they said in a joint statement.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon defended Proclamation No. 1017, saying it would not provide the President extra powers to suspend the writ of habeas corpus or declare martial law.

"There can be no warrantless arrests unless a crime is being committed in the presence of our law enforcement agencies. Our courts are still functioning," he said.

Drilon vowed to challenge the state of emergency at the Supreme Court.

But administrative Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said the declaration was "constitutionally justified."

"President Arroyo's proclamation of a state of national emergency is the equivalent of calling out the Armed Forces. The Constitution allows this to prevent or suppress lawless violence," Santiago said.

Big blow

Former President Joseph Estrada said a governmental that a handful of its people exercising their right to peaceful assembly and free speech has no right to govern.

"The intention of this proclamation is doubtful in the light of the growing public sentiment questioning the legitimacy of Mrs Arroyo's presidency," he said.

The Houk 10, former Cabinet members who resigned in July, said the declaration was the biggest blow to democracy and further exposed Ms Arroyo's desire to hold on to power.

Vice President Noli de Castro, who was in Cavite when the state of emergency was declared, said he recognized the right of the President to issue the declaration.

Former President Fidel Ramos, however, refused to comment on the declaration.

His public relations and media consultant Ed Malay said that Ramos would address these issues at 7 a.m. today during the flag-raising ceremony at the Edsa Shrine.

Former Sen. Loren Legarda said the declaration showed the "desperation of an administration yet sure of its legitimacy."

In a press statement, Loren appealed to the President, the police and the military to "respect the human rights and civil liberties of the Filipinos."

Former Navy Capt. Proceso Mallegdang said the political crisis would end soon. "This war also the situation in the past. We see the dynamics of people power as soon as [Gloria] declared economic ease."

The house minority believed that the decree in effect placed the entire country under martial law when she declared a state of national emergency.

Warrantless arrests

Rep. Francis Escudero of Sorsogon pointed out that Proclamation No. 1017 authorized warrantless arrests and even takeover of public utilities and media outfits.

"That is not provided for under the

law just by declaring a state of emergency," said Escudero in a phone interview.

Pampanga Rep. Rodin Sedot, Mr Arroyo's former national security adviser, said the declaration was an "overpower" by Malacañang that it was in trouble.

As reported, the House majority supported the declaration of a state of emergency.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said the President's decision was "justified" to minimize the damage to the country and the economy of the just-ended Edsa Revolt.

But Rep. Jose Solis, chair of the House national defense committee, cautioned Malacañang against effecting warrantless arrests and taking over public utilities and even media facilities.

"They [police] can't just arrest people. There must be due process," said Solis, a retired military officer.

Oriental Mindoro Rep. Alfonso Umali Jr. said he hoped the President would realize that what the did was wrong.

Partylist Rep. Rolin Sobet

Roof uncovered not buried school

GUINSAUGON, SOUTHERN LEYTE — A roof uncovered after a massive landslide was not that of a buried school full of children, as had been hoped.

"It is not the school," a disappointed Air Force Capt. Roman Oso told the Agence France Presse.

"We thought it was, from the description we were given," he said.

The roof emerged from the muck on Thursday raising the hopes of desperate relatives that it was the school building where over 200 schoolchildren and staff were buried in the Feb. 17 landslide in the village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town.

On Thursday night, provincial governor Rosette Lerias said aerial photographs showed "very clearly" the roof of what many thought was the village elementary school, which has been the focus of the search for a week.

The disaster has sparked a massive international relief operation with teams from at least seven nations involved, including a delegation of United States Marines.

Rescue workers waded through mud to get to the site while others were flown in by helicopters, winched down to the roof.

Only corpses

Twenty-two people were pulled out of the landslide debris alone, but only corpses have been found in succeeding days. The death toll has reached 133 with 938 people missing and believed dead.

As the base camp set up near the site, relatives have been sifting through the piles of personal effects which have been collected from the buried village.

The head of the rescue effort, Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, said that a number of people had been flown by helicopter to the site but geologists have warned that the whole area is "very unstable and very dangerous."

A US Chinook helicopter rescued seven members of Taiwan's rescue team after they became trapped by the shifting mud Thursday shortly before rescue efforts were halted for the day.

Not exact site

Despite the help of geo-technical experts and sophisticated probes, rescue workers had been unable to locate the exact site of the school where many officials had held hope that someone might still be alive inside.

Several rescue officials have said for days that no one could still be alive under soil and rocks which is about 20 meters thick in a few places. The landslip covered an area of some 9 sq km.

A series of false or unconfirmed reports have bolstered the fading hopes of relatives that someone might be alive since the village was wiped off the map a week ago.

Forensics center

The government has set up a forensics center to try to identify unclaimed corpses through finger prints and dental records.

Income could say how long it would take to unearth the school, believed to have been swept off its foundations by hundreds of tons of rock and mud.

Plans by US Marines to install a 900-ton hand drill, capable of penetrating up to 60 meters at the presumed school site, were derayed when supports were found to be missing.

Rescue workers took advantage of clearing skies yesterday, launching their biggest operation so far at the site of the landslide, the US military said.

Hundreds of US Marines and other rescue workers were digging with picks and shovels in the mud covering the farming village, said US Navy Cmdr. Manuel Binding, a Filipino-American chaplain assigned to Marines based in Okinawa, Japan.

Biggest so far

"Today's operation is the biggest so far. Right now, it's old-fashioned digging because the ground is so soft," said Binding.

He said better weather after days of heavy rain had allowed workers to step up their efforts, but said they were not using an earth mover and other heavy equipment because the ground was too unstable and more landslides were feared.

"We are concerned that an area at the top of the mountain is receding," Binding said. Helicopters were on standby to pull out any endangered diggers.

508 diggers

Philippine Army Lt. Col. Raul Fortunato said still as 500 diggers were at the site.

Recovery teams acknowledged that the likelihood of more trapped survivors of the disaster was remote. No survivors have been found since hours after Guinsaugon was buried Feb. 17 in mud up to 25 meters deep. The official death toll stood at 539 with another 938 missing.

"We all don't have much hope, but we are not giving up yet," said Benjamin Aring, head of a Lutheran-managed rescue workers.

The teams planned to check what is believed to be the roof of an elementary school that has been the focus of search efforts. It was spotted in aerial photographs far from what was believed to have been its original site.

The school was the target of the rescue efforts from the start because of unconfirmed reports that survivors had sent mobile phone text messages from inside shortly after the landslide.

Wall of mud

Officials have speculated that the wall of mud, boulders and trees from the collapse of a nearby mountainside could have swept the school away. More than 246 students and teachers were inside.

The area where the roof was found hasn't been explored because the mud is too wet. Rescue workers headed to the area yesterday despite the risks involved. Pockets of water cover what's left of the mountain would cause more landslides.

Much of the mud throughout the 40-hectare landslide zone remains unsettled, especially after the continued rains. AFP, AP

US MARINES resume search operations as a earth-moving equipment is retired in the mud after a heavy downpour in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte Friday. AFP

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Lawyers question, Gonzalez cites legal basis for 1017

By Armand N. Macatti

THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE Philippines will question before the Supreme Court the legality of Proclamation No. 1017 even as the justice department justified its issuance as a move to "preempt hostile forces" out to topple the government.

In a telephone interview, IBP president Anselmo Cadiz said his group would question the constitutionality of the proclamation before the high court, saying that it was Congress that has the authority to declare a state of emergency.

"The President cannot just declare a state of emergency Congress should do it," Cadiz said.

He said that as commander in chief, the President should have only used the "defensive or offensive powers" in line with the Constitution and other existing laws if "there is the basis of having Proclamation 1017.

Worse than Marcos

"She is worse than Marcos because Marcos, when he declared martial law, had it ratified by the Supreme Court," Cadiz said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said, however, that the Supreme Court cannot review the proclamation.

"I don't think the Supreme Court will meddle in that ... It appears to me that this particular proclamation refers to the executive or of the President to declare [a state of emergency]," he said in a telephone interview.

He said the basis for Proclamation 1017 was Article 12 of the Constitution, which states that: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the state may during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

Gonzalez said a state of national emergency was different from martial law where the Constitution gives the Congress and the Supreme Court powers of review.

Nicolas Medalones, a retired Supreme Court associate justice, raises the warning that the proclamation could create a situation of warrantless arrests, which the courts may not be able to check.

"There is only one important legal constitutional issue that to my mind is important in declaring a state of national emergency: Did the President suppress the writ of habeas corpus or declare martial law?" he said.

According to Medalones, the President has two powers: to suppress the writ of habeas corpus and declare martial law.

That she did not go to the court step of either suppressing the writ or declaring martial law was what was causing confusion, he said.

Lower Trunk Closes Administered Proclamation No. 1017 as unconstitutional and a sign of "creeping military rule."

To declare a state of emergency, the President should be authorized by a law enacted by Congress and "in the absence of such authority, no arrest of a national emergency and specify the duration of her existence of her powers, Chavez said.

Gonzalez said the state of national emergency was declared "to prevent or suppress lawless violence by military and police officials which has answered less Thursday

Inside story: Senga ...

From page A1

that before daybreak yesterday Senga announced in a television interview that he had placed Lim under his custody. Senga's move followed reports that the anti-riot general had pulled out his men from their command.

Two other reliable sources, including a senior officer, said that Senga was "totally upset" as the idea of a military withdrawal of support for Arroyo had changed his mind after talking to Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Asked by a reporter if it was true that he initially was quite to such a rebel plan, Senga said: "That's not true."

However, rebel Gen. Danilo Lim was also present in the meeting between Senga and Lim, according to the sources, who were privy to the meeting.

The sources said that after the meeting, Esperon went to see Gonzalez at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio and saw Marines in "battle-ready" attire, apparently ready to move out.

Tension rose after Esperon ordered Army soldiers to surround the Marines but the standoff was resolved without a single shot being fired, the sources said. The standoff occurred at 3 a.m. yesterday.

Rebel by heart

Why Lim, promoted to brigadier general only last April, was held enough to withdraw support from Mrs Arroyo didn't come as a surprise to both Senga and soldiers "supportive" of the opposition camp.

"General Lim is a rebel at heart," according to one of his friends who was with him during the early days of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), established after the ouster of the late Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986.

Senga had also been "receptive" to suggestions from the opposition and from retired generals for a dialogue, said former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat.

The anti-Arroyo rallies demanding ouster of the Senga-Lim meeting Thursday night included a former Army general, three ex-Constabulary generals, a former congressman, an ex-provincial governor, a resigned government lawyer and a Catholic bishop, according to the sources who remained involved with the group.

No bloodshed

Those people lied Lim is especially soldier, even if some of them have called him a hero. Up to press time, he was still in his camp, according to former ambassador Roy Señores.

Lim first met with the anti-Arroyo critics late in July at the peak of the "Hello Garci" controversy involving alleged rigging of the 2004 presidential election.

He was reportedly sympathetic to their cause, but refused to lead any move to oust Mrs Arroyo.

But like the retired generals, Lim didn't want to have Mrs Arroyo succeeded by a bloody military uprising, Señores said.

Lim reportedly told the group that at 56, he was the youngest of the anti-riot group generals and he might not be the best person to convince Senga and the current commanders to turn their backs on Mrs Arroyo.

He instead mentioned retired Col. Nilsdale Kamlon, head of the Presidential Security Group under former President Corazon Aquino, according to the business source.

Señores later arranged a secret meeting between Lim and Kamlon. While they knew each other, Lim and Kamlon had avoided seeing each other. Lim was one of the perceived leaders of the December 1989 failed push against Aquino.

Gringo, Gazmin

Like former Sen. and ex-Army Col. Gringo Honasan, Kamlon, who was once detained in Fort Magsaysay, Lim and Gazmin are well regarded by the members of the 7th Infantry Battalion in Nueva Ecija.

Gazmin was one of the unit's commanders during the Marcos administration.

The two officers kept quiet after Aquino informed them she wouldn't not support any coup against Mrs Arroyo.

Still, the retired Constabulary generals kept on encouraging and emboldening Lim even within the framework of the Constitution for soldiers to withdraw support from the President because they viewed their allegations not to her but to the people.

"General Lim may not be as brilliant as [Undersecretary Eric] Gonzalez, but he is very intelligent, having graduated with flying colors from the West Point," said Bobby's wife, Jilen Ilan.

Survey favorite

Even other opposition leaders expressed interest in meeting Lim.

In September, Lim, along with former former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos and Junior lawyer Fr. Joaquin Bernas, among others, emerged in a survey among junior officers and God-soldiers as a top favorite to lead a movement against Mrs Arroyo.

In October, Lim reportedly agreed to support the anti-Arroyo forces, provided that those forces take to the streets first before they abandon their constitutional duties. The military generals welcomed Lim's statement, but continued to persuade him to take action sides.

Another business source said that during the conversation with Senga, Lim declared his plan to "lead a group of soldiers to a march with the people to Malacañang" but he asked to withdraw his support from the Arroyo administration."

But later in the conversation, Senga talked to Esperon who convinced Senga to remain loyal to the President. Yesterday of Lim and Quarantine, according to the source.

But like the earlier plans, Lim was relieved of his post as chief of the Army Scout Rangers.

Senga reportedly cleared Lim and Querubin of involvement in a military coup to oust Mrs Arroyo.

"There is no coup," Senga said. "But there is a lot unrest by some soldiers to join the people in the protest rallies," he said.

Lim and Querubin were unclear in the attempt by the Young Officers' Union (YOU) to muster President Aquino in 1986.

Querubin, a 1977 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and Medal of Valor awardee, said he had not been relieved or placed under arrest.

What's it? 'No coup, power grab'

By Dona Z. Pazolingan, Norman Bordadora, Akoni Pipa and Leigh B. del Puerto

WHO TRIED A COUP AGAINST against President Macapagal-Arroyo, as current officials are saying, or not?

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, a founder of the Reform Young Officers of the Philippines (RAM), was relieved as commander of the Army 1st Scout Ranger Regiment late Thursday night after meeting with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

Esperon, top AFP officials were on TV claiming that with the arrest of Lim, they had thwarted a rebellion.

Even so, the arrests declared a state of emergency before noon. An hour later, top defense and military officials were hard put to justify the declaration.

"I'd just like to state that the [AFP] was able to preempt some illegal activities by some officers, and the situation now is under control," said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

It was Cruz's first time on air, down with the AFP chief of staff and the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force in a news conference.

"There were some attempts to commit illegal activities, which were averted through dialogue with those concerned. The AFP's leadership and the unit commands down the line are with the control," he said.

Not organized group

Earlier in the day, Senga was emphatic in declaring a coup attempt.

"This is not a coup [d'etat] or a power grab," he insisted as he announced some junior officers' plan to launch a coup with the purpose of "destabilizing the government."

Senga said the President would not be cowed by these actions and would continue to perform her constitutional duties.

"Lim said I am personal friend; he has been to withdraw support from the President. I told him, I will not withdraw support from the President," Senga said.

He said he came to learn about Lim's plan to lead his men in joining the protest rallies and withdrawing support from the President after their Thursday night meeting.

He said they discussed "various issues affecting the [AFP]."

Senga said that apart from Lim, no other officer or soldier, even those from Lim's unit, had been brought in for questioning.

"I think we can say that this is not an organized group. That is an act not of an institutional officer. So far some retired noble people to go with him in his mission," Senga said in a news conference announced.

Contradictory statements

But earlier in the day, Senga said Col. Ariel Querubin, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Sherman City, was also under investigation in connection with the supposed defection plan.

A military spokesperson even said Querubin had been likewise relieved, along with Lim and Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco of the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force.

But the military took back its statement about Querubin's relief after the Marine Corps protested that he was not involved in the alleged withdrawal of support.

Querubin had also once been part of the YOU that mounted the 1989 coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino.

Lim was promoted to star rank last year, making him, at 56 years of age, the youngest general in the service.

Querubin, a Medal of Valor awardee, was given command of the 1st Marine Brigade last year, replacing Brig. Gen. Francisco Enaleo, who was retired, and, with to smaller command in the 1st Marine Brigade, was promoted.

US urges GMA to uphold rule of law, protect rights

THE UNITED STATES YESTERDAY urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to uphold the rule of law and protect civil liberties after the imposition a state of emergency to quell what alleged coup attempt.

The US government also urged more than 500,000 Americans living in the former US colony to "take prudent steps to ensure their personal safety during this uncertain time," US embassy spokesman Robert Luxemburger said in a statement read on national television.

"The US government is monitoring the situation in the Philippines very closely," the embassy said.

The President declared a "state of national emergency," invoking powers to use the military to quell a rebellion and to order warrantless public curbs if necessary, after the government detained several people including a general who is said to withdraw his support for her term. He remained under house arrest.

"We call on the Government of the Philippines and the Filipino people to respect fully the rule of law, protect civil liberties and human rights, and respect evidence," the US statement added.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said he briefed the diplomatic corps to explain the actions undertaken by the Arroyo government.

"The members of the Diplomatic Corps appreciated the briefing and have strongly indicated their support for President Arroyo and the democratic institutions of the Republic of the Philippines," Romulo said in a statement.

Aside from the United States, Australia and Hong Kong also issued advisories urging their citizens to exercise caution when traveling to the Philippines.

"We assured them that the due process and human rights would be preserved," Romulo said at a press conference following the briefing that lasted for nearly an hour at the DFA building in Pasay City.

When asked for his opinion on the declaration of the state of emergency, Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Ibagza told reporters: "That's something that is an internal matter of the Philippines. We consider we have no say in it. We think that we have been given assurances by our government that they will have special care of the observance of the human rights. There is nothing for us to say. We just hope that the situation stabilizes immediately and we wish the best to the constitutional rule of the Philippines."

Japan said that Romulo transmitted "a message of calm to all of us that they [government] have control of the situation."

"The diplomatic corps has resolved very positively to this information and we are that the situation is under control. We are very grateful to this," Japan said.

Among the other prominent diplomats who attended the late afternoon briefing were US Charge d'affaires Neil Amin, Israel Ricardo Franco, Chinese Ambassador Li Jin Jun, and Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki.

In a well-attended meeting, Romulo said he furnished the diplomatic corps with copies of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 to form part of their report to their respective capitals. Reports by Nikko Dizon and AFP

We surrounded Rangers—Palparan

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Central Luzon Desk

ARMY TROOPERS UNDER BRIG. GEN. JOVITO Palparan helped prevent loyal Rangers under suspected renegade Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim from leaving Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan, on Friday.

"My men have surrounded them," Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, told the Inquirer on Friday.

Inside Fort Camp Tecson, he said, his division also had the upper hand over Scout Rangers stationed at the division's Sico Maquaraya in Nueva Ecija.

Lim is believed to be there and there is no threat from them, "he said.

But his part, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, head of the military's Northern Luzon Command, said that aside from controlling the movements of Lim's men, the Bulacan also assisted the Army officers who were recruiting for the Magdalo sentiments.

Tolentino said the two soldiers, whom he declined to identify, were arrested on Wednesday and turned over to the Philippine Army's national headquarters.

Tolentino said the deployed several tanks in Camp Aguinaldo on Friday morning after intelligence reports confirmed that Lim, commander of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, was moving his troops to join a rally at the Edsa Shrine.

Tolentino said Lim chose to join the rally on a "personal decision."

He said Maj. Gen. Benito Ramos, chief of the Scout Rangers, has sworn in Col. Reynaldo Mapagu as Lim's replacement. Tolentino said the situation was "not that serious."

He said it was "normal" for Mapagu to be on and after every time there were "activities at the national level," such as those related to the 20th anniversary celebration of the Edsa I Revolt.

Tolentino said more than 14,000 troops belonging to Bulacan's 7th Infantry Division stayed in Isabela and Nueva Ecija, respectively, were intact and not making any shuttle-bus movements.

On Friday, the council of commanders of nine Philippine Air Force units based in Clark and Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, held an early morning meeting.

Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Mariala, council head, said their troops were "intact" and "remained under the chain of command."

Troops based in Clark and Basa Air Base comprise 70 percent of the PAF's strength, Mariala said.

He said two OV-10 attack helicopters remained parked at the Hardson complex of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport and would fly out only on his or on orders of PAF chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes.

Soldiers and policemen manned checkpoints in the region's main thoroughfares, especially the North Luzon Expressway and the MacArthur Highway. The police in Camp Olivas were on full alert on Thursday.

Emilio Francia, chair of the Clark International Airport Corp., said DEDS security measures were augmented.

He added that important facilities like the airport's tower, terminal and navigational aids were secured on Friday and that PAF troops and the police were on standby to lend additional security in case of "escalated threat."

Personnel around Clark's main gate at mid-

Papal nuncio bids RP goodbye

By Leila B. Salaverria

OUTGOING PAPAL NUNCIO ANTONIO Franco yesterday bid the Philippines farewell in a Thanksgiving Mass at the Manila Cathedral held in his honor, but promised to keep the country in his prayers.

In his remarks after the Mass, the nuncio thanked the Catholic Church leaders, saying his memories of the Philippines would remain in his heart.

"To every church and every diocese, you have made the nuncio to make the representative of the Holy Father feel the vitality of the local church, and the enthusiasm of the local church," Franco said. "Be sure that I will give you my prayers every day."

Franco, who was sent by the Vatican to the country in 1999, is expected to be assigned to Switzerland or Cyprus next month.

His successor has not been named.

In his homily, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales asked the diocesan to pray for the country.

"We wish you the Lord's Blessings, now as we ask for your prayers for our country in its seemingly endless search for unity, justice and peace," Rosales said.

300 activists from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan prepared to hold separate rally there.

Bayan members Jo Maleon, Tadiar and Reena Raja were to hold similar rallies, undaunted by the emergency order by Ms Arroyo, Bayan regional chair Roman Dalanon said. Wire reports from Sourya Orejas, Anselmo Roque, Carmela Reyes, Amber Lacsado, Cesar Villa and Greg Bellosillo, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Philimar Flavia Jr., Melvin Gascon, Arvel Alviar, Yolanda Sotelo-Rueda and Fitzel Cabrera, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

TO HONOR EDSA I's 20th anniversary, people go to Edsa on Friday only to be turned away at the corner of Santolan by PNP dispersal units after security say they had foiled a coup attempt. EDDIE GUTIERREZ

TEARS OF ANGER: A woman crying near the Edsa Shrine is at her wits end after dispersed but the cops are unmoved. JOEY G. SALGADO

Protests dispersed, 22 arrested

From page A1

the same march on Edsa, and she (Ms Arroyo) was at the Edsa Shrine, waiting for us to give her the presidency. And now she's stopping us," said University of the Philippines professor and former solicitor general Raul David shortly before he was arrested by policemen in plain clothes.

David, along with Akbayan president Ronald Llamas and lawyer Jospe Evardone, was cited for a permit. Deputy Cecilia Soban (plate number PGB 1341) of Camp Crame, according to Akbayan media officer Percy Sendaña.

The three were charged with illegal assembly and inciting to sedition, but were released early last night.

In Makati City at 7:30 last night, a phalanx of antiriot police took demonstrators by surprise and succeeded in pushing them away from the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, where former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had earlier addressed them.

Shocked

The violent dispersal of the daytime mass actions shocked Aquino, who was catapulted to the presidency by the People Power I (EDSA 1986) Constitution that toppled then-Island Marcos' dictatorship.

"This is really shocking," The Associated Press quoted Aquino as saying. "It's really a slap to [our] democracy again."

In an ambush interview after her speech, Aquino, now 73, called on the people to continue to press for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

She said the threat of arrest would not stop her, adding that she went through a lot during the Marcos dictatorship.

"I have faced more dangerous situations a long time ago," she said. "We cannot just stay silent because that is what happened during martial law."

Aquino said the Presidente was spoiling the spirit of the Edsa celebration by declaring a state of emergency.

Asked whether she believed that Ms Arroyo was worse than Marcos, she said: "You be the judge." But she urged the people not to allow things to continue to be married law.

Aquino also said she was prepared to face the consequence of her act and insist the anger of Ms Arroyo.

She appealed to the military and police to heed their conscience and do what they think would be good for the people.

Martial law

Early in the afternoon, a sea of blue-uniformed policemen swooped down on some 10,000 demonstrators led by the militant coalition Lakas ng Mana in what some described as the fiercest clash to confront the ban.

The demonstrators had started mid-morning at the Quezon Memorial Circle before heading toward Edsa. They were stopped past 2 p.m. by barbed-wedding cops at the foot of the Ilaisidan Bypass.

Negotiations between the police and the demonstrators took more than an hour, until Quezon City police chief Nicanor Faderan Jr gave them five minutes to disperse.

The protesters, led by Lakas ng Mana chair and former EP president Fidel Ramos Jr., David and Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveet, said they would convene their constitutional right to peaceable assembly.

David, Evardone and Llamas sought a meeting with Faderan's aides from the front lines, but they were arrested by police instead.

Sermonic said the arrests contained him of martial law.

"Lahat ng Mata condemn the arrest of its leaders and calls on the people to defy Ebdis's #declaration style emergency rule through civil disobedience," said Hontiveet.

"We're all concerned that [the declaration of a state of emergency] is illegal," he said.

In an interview shortly before his arrest, David said Congress, and not Ms Arroyo, had the power to declare a state of emergency.

He said he did not recognize Ms Arroyo as President, but only as a politician who "stole the elections and fooled the people."

Dispersal

Minutes later, police numbering at least 1,000 ignored the crowd with a high-pressure fire hose and began shoving and pushing.

Some of the demonstrators pulled back and scattered toward the Cubao area.

Police used wooden batons on those who remained, but none fought back by throwing stones.

Some 20 demonstrators, many of them women, were arrested and brought to Camp Karingal in a commander's truck.

Among 50 others, including fundraiser president Wilson Fortaleza, were injured, said Bobby Dacumos of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

Three members of human rights groups, including Ate Gwen Pimentel of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, joined those arrested to safeguard their rights.

Ten of those arrested were Kilusang Bantiwasang Demokrasya-Pampanga members, two were from Bindweeds, Bernardo Carpio Brgy. Kapitan Ka Ben Ramos. The survivors from Southern, while five were from the urban poor sector, a KPG information officer said.

Bantiquil said Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency was the "ultimate betrayal of Edsa."

"We urge all peace- and freedom-loving Filipinos to join the only democratic institution that has not betrayed us—the parliament of the streets. Now is the time for reclaiming People Power," she said.

Palace go-signal

In Malacañang, the dispersal of the broad opposition's anti-administration rally had the go-signal of Malacañang, members of the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan quoted Senior Supt. Marianito Wenio as saying.

Bantiquil's legal contingent, which had marched to Makati after earlier being dispersed at the Edsa Shrine, were given until 7:00 p.m. to wrap up its program.

The speeches had already ended and the demonstrators were ready to go when the 400-strong antiriot team, armed with shields and truncheons, marched toward Ayala Avenue to push them away.

The crowd was made up of activists, the middle forces, progressive Church leaders and personalities from the political opposition.

"We should be thankful that we have [Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay] here. Because of him, we have a place to freely hold movements like these," said Aquino, who led the seventh-leg ceremony at her late husband Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino's monument.

Binay's United Opposition (UNO), of which he is president, had earlier announced that yesterday's activity would be a commemoration of the "modern revolution" in Makati after Ninoy Aquino's assassination in 1983.

At 6 p.m., the gathering swelled when the large Bayan contingent arrived.

By then, according to the police estimate, the crowd had ballooned to 30,000.

Long march

After we were dispersed starting at around 11:30 a.m., we marched through Ian Juan, and then passed through Mandaluyong, which was the hardest, because they are not exactly pro-Arroyo," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

"Then we passed through the residential areas ... There was an outpouring of support for us," Reyes said.

Makati's office workers, taunting us the sidewalks and pouring out of their office windows, cheered on the contingent marched toward the Ninoy Aquino Monument, where they aimed to merge with UNO's smaller crowd, mostly composed of Makati residents and city employees.

Waving big banner (The people's cry: People Power)" the activists chanted, drawing applause from those on the sidelines.

Confetti rained down from time to time from the office buildings on Ayala, a show of support for which the activists expressed gratitude over their loudspeakers.

While they were initially barricaded by a line of antiriot policemen with truncheons and shields, the group was finally allowed to push to the Ayala Paseo intersection at 5:23 p.m.

At that time, police Director Vidal Querol was still on "wait-and-see" mode.

"I watch, and then let's see what [we] can do," said Querol, chief of the Metro Manila police.

Police had positioned about 1,000 antiriot cops in Makati alone, a police official said, adding that another group of cops blocked the Bayan group in Mandaluyong.

Referring to the dispersal at the Edsa Shrine, Querol told ABC television that police had "liberated Edsa and gone it back to the thousands of motorists."

Unstoppable

At the Edsa Shrine, about 1,000 demonstrators carried red banners demanding the President's ouster.

They braved the intense heat for almost two hours, gathered in front of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel—the site of two massive uprisings that ousted two Presidents.

Then seemingly unstoppable, but had to yield to at least 500 policemen and soldiers armed with shields and truncheons.

"We will leave. But we will not abandon our stand," Bayan's Reyes told the crowd.

They spent some time in front of the La Salle Green Hills high school before marching toward Makati.

But the prelude to the peaceful dispersal was violent, with antiriot policemen pushing a segment of the crowd.

They started throwing stones and sticks at our policemen. They were becoming unruly, so we had to contain them," Mandaluyong Police chief Senior Supt. Ernesto Velasquez said, referring to the segment of the crowd that had gathered near the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration building.

Gunpoint

To further push the demonstrators away from the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Edsa, which by then had jammed traffic in all directions, fire hoses were trained on them.

Officials claimed that at least three cops were hurt. Protest leaders said three of their members were injured.

The tension was eased when former Vice President Teofisto Guingona walked through the crowd shortly before 4 p.m. and spoke on stage.

"This is a peaceful gathering. We are not doing anything wrong. This is our right," Guingona said.

He later spoke with police officials, pressing that the demonstrators would disperse voluntarily after their program. With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Luige A. del Puerto and Jerome Aning

Kris, boyfriend James steal show in Ayala rites

From page A1

memorabilia of the 1986 Edsa People Power revolution at the Ninoy Aquino Monument, the country's most-watched show biz couple arrived, appearing a mad rush from a mob of media people and fans.

Television personality Kris Aquino and boyfriend James Yap quietly joined the crowd at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati at a little past 2 p.m. to take part in speech-laying ceremonies at the monument and Rizal Tableau, the surveyed Bonifacio statue.

But the moment their presence was noticed, media people and a handful of fans excitedly surrounded the pair like a police barricade.

Fleeing opposition politicians who had arrived earlier failed to stir the crowd to action. Kris and her fiancé were able to pull bystanders off the celebrities, causing no one to notice they were on earth a glimpse of and click away with their camera phones at the high-profile couple.

Staying cool

Immediately of the frenzy she was causing, Kris, who was wearing jeans and a yellow polo shirt, solemnly bowed her head in prayer, holding a rosary.

The outspoken and excitable gains show how uncharacteristically cooled calm.

Beside her, Yap, who is a star forward of the Purefoods basketball team, would glance at his fiancé every now and then.

The couple, who recently announced plans to marry, came to honor Erie Embry, whose assassination in 1986 inspired the nation to rise up against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, celebrating three years later in a bloodless uprising that ended more than 20 years of dictatorial rule.

Kris had a message for people in the media.

"All of us who work in media, you're lucky we have the freedom now. We need to protect the freedom given to us," Aquino said, as microphones, recorders and cell phones were thrust at her face.

Aquino's mother, former President Corazon Aquino, was the central figure in yesterday's commemoration. The former President, now among the youngest voters calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, led an anti-Arroyo force of some 10,000 protesters in a march to her late husband's monument.

Media fear censorship, intimidation

From page A1

years.

Quezon said he didn't think arrests of critical members of the media would be made in the next few days although another Philippine Daily Inquirer, University of the Philippines Prof. Randy David, was arrested while participating in a march commemorating the 20th anniversary of the People Power uprising. (Story on Page A2.)

Much worse

The state of emergency "may not result in a lot of arrests ... but it still result in something much worse—intimidation," Quezon said.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said it had received information that the military had "been coordinating with some media outlets for soldiers to stand guard at their premises supposedly to protect their facilities.

"This, we think, is an attempt to frighten the media," said NUJP spokesperson Jose Torres, a freelance journalist who also writes for GMA 7's online news service.

"The press cannot leave it if we find ourselves threatened and intimidated in any way the government line, that's the big problem," Torres added in an interview.

Earlier, the head of the National Telecommunications Commission told the Inquirer that he wanted to see "balanced reporting" from broadcasters about reporting the events surrounding the alleged coup attempt which Ms Arroyo cited as the reason for her proclamation.

Grave concern

"We'd like them to cooperate," NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis said.

The Philippine Press Institute (PPI) said in a statement it viewed "with great concern" what it described as the government's "attempts to curtail the citizenry's constitutionally guaranteed rights, including the right of free expression and the right to assemble peacefully to seek redress of grievances."

PPI president Amado P. Macasaet said the revocation of permits to hold rallies and police threats to arrest people involved in the alleged anti-Arroyo plot were "indeed assaults on press liberties (that) should be vociferously."

He said the duty of the media was "to report as truthfully as we could, guided by our best lights" and "working still but us from pursuing our duty."

Solis spoke to the Inquirer before meeting with representatives of various broadcast media.

He said fears of a government crackdown on the media were unfounded and described as "Oh [expletive]!" suspicions of eventual curtailment of press freedom.

He said circulars had already been distributed to media organizations in the past outlining what they could and could not do during periods of emergency.

"No misinformation," Solis replied, when asked if the media would be sanctioned for airing interviews with alleged coup plotters or those branded by the Arroyo administration as "destabilizers."

In particular, he said broadcast outfits should refrain from airing statements from parties that "incite to sedition" or those that are "rebellious" in nature.

Guidelines

Should the crisis continue into a military confrontation, Solis said the media would be prohibited to broadcast details of movements of troops loyal to the government.

"They cannot reveal troop movements, critical information, or [air] propaganda," he said.

TV and radio stations violating these guidelines would face closure, as well as criminal and administrative charges.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

Iraq on the brink as violence kills 130

BAGHDAD—SECTARIAN VIOLENCE KILLED more than 130 people across Iraq and left dozens of mosques damaged or in ruins as the United States appealed on Thursday to Sunnis and Shiites to step back from the brink of civil war.

A day after a suspected al Qaeda car bombing devastated one of the holiest Shiite shrines and sparked the two days of revenge attacks, President George W. Bush stepped into the worst crisis since the US invasion, one that threatens efforts to form a viable, unity government and bring US troops home from Iraq.

After dark, residents heard heavy clashes around Baghdad.

Government sources said a curfew would be imposed in the capital and surrounding provinces on Friday to avert violence.

Surging crowds swept from Shiite mosques on the Muslim day of prayer could be a major test for Iraq's new security forces.

"The voices of women from all aspects of Iraqi life understand that this bombing is intended to create civil strife," Bush said as the military reported seven more US soldiers had been killed in two separate attacks on Wednesday and American forces in Baghdad adopted a low profile.

He praised Iraqi leaders' public efforts to maintain calm.

The 101st convoy also stopped in, asking Iraqi leaders to iron him in at meetings: "I have invited political, religious and civil leaders to discuss confidence-building measures to ensure the situation remains under control," Ashraf Qazi told Reuters.

But the main hurdle is political. Envoy said it had pulled out of US-backed talks on forming a coalition following December's parliamentary election and leading clerics raided unusually frank secretary criticisms that may do little to calm passions.

President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, pressed ahead despite the Sunni boycott with a meeting that he had called to avert a descent toward a civil war. After talks, he told a televised news conference that if all-out war came "no one will be safe."

Among the dead were 47 people, apparently both Sunnis and Shiites, whose gunmen dragged from vehicles after they attended a demonstration to show cross-sectarian solidarity over Baghdad.

Official accounts of the incidents were otherwise vague, however.

After dark, residents of Baghdad's Yarmouk district heard gunfire and explosions from apparent clashes involving a Sunni and a Shiite mosque situated close to each other. But residents near Sadrian Dik, southeast of the capital, said black-clad Shiite militiamen were attacking Sunni neighborhoods.

Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called on Iraqis to form a Sunni-Shiite committee to end the violence. Reuters

Roof over Moscow market collapses, killing 57

MOSCOW—RESCUERS, PAUSING frequently to put their ears to the rubble to listen for signs of life, pulled dozens of corpses out of a mass of concrete, planks and metal beams after the snow-laden roof of a Moscow market collapsed.

At least 57 people were killed and 53 injured in the early Thursday morning collapse, Emergencies Situations Ministry spokesperson Irina Andrianova told Reuters.

Virtually all the victims were believed to be workers from Azerbaijan and other former Soviet republics, among the thousands who have poured into the Russian capital to fill the low-paid jobs such as those at the city's produce and housewares markets.

The probable cause was either the buildup of heavy snow, design flaws or maintenance errors, Moscow Prosecutor Anatoly Yuzo said. Prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation on charges of negligence leading to death, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

One of the survivors, Mikhail Safronov, a 53-year-old hydraulics fitter electrician, said he left the market just before the roof gave way around 3 a.m.

"I heard a loud noise and I fell to the ground and lost consciousness. When I came to, I was lying by the entrance," Safronov said. AP

RESCUE personnel search for survivors the scene of a collapsed market building in Moscow Feb. 23.

Dubai firm to delay US ports takeover

WASHINGTON—A UNITED ARAB Emirates company has offered to delay its takeover of more operations at six US ports to give the Bush administration more time to overcome skeptical lawmakers the deal generated in recent days.

The surprise announcement Thursday follows some pressure from a standoff between President George W. Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress, which has threatened to block the transfer unless the UAE's pinpoint of the to terrorists. Immediate reaction on Capitol Hill was mixed.

Under the offer coordinated with the White House, Dubai Ports World said it will agree not to exercise control or influence the management over US ports pending further talks with the Bush administration. Congress and local port authorities. It did not indicate how long it will wait for those discussions to take place.

The Dubai-based state-owned company said it will move forward with other parts of the deal affecting the rest of the world.

"It is not only unreasonable but also impractical to suggest that the closing of this entire global transaction should be delayed," Dubai Ports said in a statement.

"The reaction in the United States has occurred in no other country in the world," the company's chief operating officer Ted Hilton, said in a statement. "We need to understand the concerns of the people in the US who are worried about this transaction and make sure that they are addressed to the benefit of all parties. Security is everybody's business." AP

British police arrest 2 suspects in record $87-M heist

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE hunting a gang of armed robbers who stole up to a record 58 million pounds ($87 million) from a security depot arrested two more people on Thursday, suspected of involvement in the heist.

Police said a 29-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman were arrested in connection with Tuesday's armed raid on the Securitas vault depot in Tonbridge, southeast England, thought to be Britain's biggest robbery.

The pair were being held in separate locations in Kent, the region where the crime occurred, and questioned on suspicion to commit robbery, police said.

Adrian Leppard, assistant chief constable of Kent police, said the arrests "were significant and directly related to the investigation" into the raid that netted at least 20 million pounds (29 million euros, $35 million).

However, Leppard said no parties in Bradstone, Kent, that the exact amount would not be known until forensic work was complete, warning: "It could be as high as 40 million, or even 50 million."

Leppard said more than 100 police officers were hunting the gang of "ruthless" armed robbers and that an unprecedented two million pounds reward was being offered for information as to their whereabouts or identities.

All British ports and airports have been put on alert for anyone attempting to leave the country with large sums of cash while CCTV images of the gang's white delivery lorry was released to help track down responsible drivers.

"We know this for a fact—this is organized crime at its top level. It was planned and executed with military precision," he added.

He said Kent Police had the manpower, resources and vehicles needed to find the robbers. AFP

FBI objected to Gitmo tactics

WASHINGTON—FBI OFFICIALS raised repeated objections to aggressive interrogation tactics at the US "war on terror" prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including some they said were approved at high levels of the defense department, documents released Thursday show.

The documents—a series of internal FBI e-mails and memos—warn a dispute that arose as early as November 2002 over military interrogation tactics at Guantanamo, also known as Gitmo, and resurfaced in 2004 in the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal.

FBI officials said they voiced their objections with Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, the commander of the Guantanamo task force, arguing that the aggressive tactics were ineffective and unreliable. In their e-mail, the FBI officials also noted that the "uncertain" legality of the tactics.

But Miller approved "biased" in favor of the tactics used by interrogators at the Defense Intelligence Agency Defense Human Service, they said.

The documents do not spell out what tactics the FBI objected to, and at least one FBI official emphasized in e-mail messages that he knew of no credible allegations of abuse at the military-run detention center.

But the e-mails allude to controversial interrogation practices that either were witnessed by special Agents at Guantanamo or contained in interrogation logs that they had seen.

About 500 detainees are currently held at the prison in a remote corner of a US navy base.

The Behavioral Assessment Unit (BAU) disagreed with the use of specific techniques in the case of [redacted] as they explained that the techniques would be successful and they could produce unreliable results," said an e-mail message May 4, 2004 from an unidentified official.

The recipient, whose name was blacked out, responded, "I can think of two specific examples [of abuse] ... You may want to talk to BAU about [redacted] and [redacted] in OTHO."

In an e-mailed reply the following day, the unidentified official cautioned that there was a distinction between "allegations of abuse and the use of techniques which fall outside of FM/DAJ (Department of Justice training and policy)."

As a whole to [redacted] and [redacted] the techniques employed against detainees in the interrogation process were, based on numerous inquiries I made, in addition to my personal review of the DoD interrogation plans, approved by the Deputy Secretary of Defense."

The deputy defense secretary at the time was Paul Wolfowitz, who is head of the World Bank. AFP

Nigeria city burns its Muslim dead

ONITSHA, Nigeria—AT LEAST 30 people were killed when Christians burned six Muslims living among them in a southern Nigeria city, a rights group said Thursday, while in the north Christians rioted in the same few weeks against reprisals.

The weekly clash in Onitsha, mainly Muslims, was burned on bodies of blazing tires. In a drive around the main streets, reporters saw at least nine more corpses to add to 19 they had found on Wednesday scattered by the road.

"We counted 30 bodies on Tuesday and 28 on Wednesday and there could be more," said Emeka Umeh, head of the local chapter of the Legacy Search Of Liberties Organization (LSO), adding that Miller approved "biased" in favor of the tactics used by interrogators at the Defense Intelligence Agency Defense Human Service, they said.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 21 No. 79

Edsa betrayed

WE CONDEMN, IN THE STRONGEST TERMS, THE brazen plot by misguided members of the military to take the name Jesus Christ, and in the very same breath, we also condemn President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency. This is a needless, reckless response to what the Army chief has called a "pending coup." It undermines public perception that the Arroyo administration is prepared to sacrifice democratic principles on the altar of political survival.

EDITORIAL

The risk the coup threat poses to the State is real: the detention of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, until yesterday the commanding general of the Army's elite Scout Ranger, and the arrest of Police Director Marcelino Pinoon, until yesterday the chief of the elite Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police, are troubling indicators of both the depth and reach of restiveness in the armed services.

But it is a risk that is well within the power of the government to contain. We can only conclude that the President's declaration of a state of national emergency through Proclamation 1017, a number rich in chilling Marcosian overtones) is a gross overreaction.

Misleading does not have to take our word for it. The President and her men can ask the members of the financial community, whose judgment they apparently value the most. Joseph Tan, a regional economist at Standard Chartered Bank, spoke for many when he said: "When the alleged coup failed to take, in terms of weakening the peso, the President managed to do with the declaration of a state of emergency."

In other words, the proclamation, which is based (among other premises) on the assumption that the threat against the State includes activities "adversely affecting the economy," is actually what drove the peso down yesterday.

We find another premise of the proclamation deeply disturbing: that "the claims of these elements (referring to some members of the political opposition in alliance with Leftist 'authoritarians' and 'military adventurists') have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the mainstream media."

This is an unusual clause, and could very well serve as a pretext for cracking down on news organizations that publish unflattering stories about the administration. The second, as-collected Michael Defensor, the President's Chief of Staff, confirmed our worst suspicions when he spoke excitedly about what the proclamation has empowered the administration to do. Among these, he noted the government's power to take over public utilities, "even media facilities," should the need arise.

In the hands of an administration that has in fact all but blamed the media for airing opinions or positions contrary to those of Malacañang, it is not difficult to imagine the state of national emergency being used to gag journalists—and thus restrain the public's right to know.

We condemn both the coup plot and the presidential proclamation as acts of violence against the body politic. The use of organized violence, no matter how targeted, can never be an acceptable option. At the same time, the declaration merely gives legal form to brute political reality: The true measure of this administration, engulfed in a continuing crisis of legitimacy, lies in the armed services.

We condemn both the plot and the proclamation as insults on democracy. A violent strike is fatally undemocratic; a public that thinks the President stole the elections cannot turn around and embrace the violence that negates the very idea of the vote. At the same time, the declaration pays lip service to democratic ideals, but in truth creates an opportunity to curtail the very liberties at the heart of our democracy.

Not least, we condemn both the plot and the proclamation as betrayals of the highest ideals of the Edsa revolution. The events that shook the nation and stunned the world exactly 20 years ago today stirred when a military faction broke away from the Marcos regime. But it was not the military that launched the Edsa revolution; this love is not here. Just, however, in those adventurists in the military who have lost patience with the democratic experiment.

At the same time, the declaration is deeply, maddeningly anti-Edsa. Yesterday, when it was still only a few hours old, it was used to justify the violent dispersal of a crowd that had gathered to mark the Edsa anniversary, and to arrest some of the demonstrators. Here, indisputably, is proof that the Arroyo administration has turned its back on Edsa.

Redeeming the promise of Edsa

SEPARATE OPINION

Raissa A. Cruz

THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST ARTICLE I will be writing about Edsa I. By this time next year, that historic event will have been relegated in fact by a monumental notion or just outright remembered as an unpleasant cigarette in the mouths of our men.

It began on Sept. 22, 34 years ago, a Saturday when I met for morning class at Electoral Law lectures at the UE College of Law. There was an unusual number of absentees but we held roll-call nine and I'm easy to in other early morning meetings. Afterwards, however, a student approached me to say that Ninoy had declared martial law two days ago and had begun to enforce it. The whole country was now under the absolute rule, with the armed forces behind him.

On my way home, I saw soldiers already stationed at various places but without intimidation or arrogance to see. I learned later of the names of the terrible things to come under the new regime. Congress had been dissolved and padlocked. The media were all censored except for those under the despot's control. Many of his enemies had been arrested and detained without trial by indefinite detention. The Supreme Court was silenced and effectively contained.

The president was initially indignant but was eventually coaxed and negotiated. The first who was assassinated was Senator Aquino, many of them to be tortured and killed. The "fame" of the Japanese occupation was revived, and the disclosures for homicide clandestinos were legalized in the name of national security. Human rights were closed without recourse to habeas corpus.

The constitutional citizenship of Marcos and family ruled the country as if their own to be answers. The Constitution was demanded to make their power unlimited and secure. The jubilee-ruling featuring Ferdinand finally stepped down and Corazon Cojuangco "legitimized" their illegal acts. Relatives and friends enjoyed exceptional privileges without accountability or compensation. The extensive, most industry-long business to the cronies and only a few privileged. The military became a mutual with its unrestrained power as the arm-masters of the land.

This oppression continued for more than 13 years until it became finally glimpsed a light at the end of the tunnel. On Feb. 22, 1986, Juan Ponce Enrile, defense secretary and high sheriff of martial law, backed his defiance at the dictatorship. From his office at Edsa, he called on the people to fight for the downfall of Marcos and his cohorts. He asked AFP vice chief of staff Fidel V. Ramos to join him, and he did. Thirty degrees joined his followers to rally to them, and they did.

They first came in trickles but soon grew to thousands, and hundreds of thousands, of Filipinos who had finally discovered their power and their courage to organize it against the tyrant. Within and beyond Edsa, at radio stations, in churches and convents, in offices and factories, people armed millionaires, elders, students and their children, sweethearts and teens, a grandmother in a wheelchair and some carrying candles and bouquets, even teenagers sickness of the despot of bravery and bombast—all of them joined in the towering desire for liberty to be regained.

By finally day, on Feb. 25, 22 years ago today, its determination marched on Malacañang to wreak vengeance on the man who had disgraced it. It almost flew Marcos aside by family and co-principals to safety in Hawaii, where he was taken to die, away from the land he had betrayed and impoverished for his crimes.

What has Edsa accomplished besides the end of his dictatorship? Have its camps been unfairly penalized for the sick officers that committed during the club, period of martial law? Has the wickedness of that endangered time been erased with the revival of the people's freedom and the vindication of their outraged rights?

To ask these questions is to remain ourselves of our indebtedness to that evil era and our blind production of its unexamined transgressions.

The people of Romania executed Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, Who Lechuga's rule was upon his death imprisoned for his sins, and Augusto Pinochet is now, at age 93, being prosecuted for crimes he allegedly committed as president of Chile. But the wickedness of our hatred has been not suffered similar retribution for their enrichment of our helpless nation.

Hence are still named after Marcos and his wife. The same system has not still sleeping in our courts, except one where her conviction was reversed by the Supreme Court and her P35.5 billion tax delinquency that is still unresolved. It collected. Many of the couple's cronies are still in power and remain as untouched as before. Many of the ill-gotten wealth the public funds they have auditioned have not yet been returned to their rightful owners. The results are no hoped Edsa would accept not still with us now as if that bloodless revolution had not happened at all.

Despite the celebrations of Edsa today, let us resolve to give it a true meaning and purpose in 1986, let us recall its significance in ending the Marcos oppression and the peaceful restoration of democracy to our tormented country. But also we must correct its the selfishness, corruption and indifference that tribute, too, in it we did not done to it.

Keeping the flame of Edsa alive

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

COUNT ME OUT OF THE PROTEST ACTIONS of the Edsa Shrine and Ortigas (I organized in a peaceful celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolt. It is not because I don't want to celebrate it—I want to celebrate it as much as you do, but as ushering would, the best of the Filipino spirit, and is therefore worthy of recall. But I refuse to celebrate it with people who are certainly using the occasion to further their own political or personal agendas by invoking "the greater good." That is the last refuge of scoundrels.

By doing so, they are destroying all that the Edsa revolt stands for: the spirit of self-sacrifice for the motherland, not to exchange of personal benefit, and what it means, they are encouraging military adventurists (bad ones, not like us) to do it with a military verdict as justification. And still, it could experience a new rebellion, easily turned-on into a military dictatorship, ala Myanmar with its 84-year-old military rule. That will truly be the height of irony. They want to change Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (terrible assessment of her "illegitimacy" that so far has not been substantiated), and will end up with a regime that they may not be able to change at all. Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind.

Those who are rallying loudest for Mr. Arroyo to make the "supreme sacrifice" are the ones for the "good of the country" when kind of suicides are they willing to make if at all? Take the letters with the red flags who are on Edsa I and are trying to exploit the event to set up their own government without benefit of elections. Or the bold ones after Lanny days, or all. Like the proposed governing council of junta, were they are expecting to be in that self-same governing council themselves? Take those who resigned their Cabinet positions. Note that really a sacrifice, considering that they assumed to be unanswering in due in due to-ing. Those who "sacrificed" were those who in Hong Kong all about, after all? Or those who supported them. Haven't they also supporting, and bargaining for plum positions in the next government? Or those supported military "shoulders" who want change. What many they doing playing footsie with the Nora Princess's Aurora saloon cousin objective is the violent overthrow of any government that is not theirs? Or people like Retail Ruiger Roy, Gen. Danny Lim, who has been in I don't know how many coup attempts, who is known to have boasted and close now through the ranks, and now members in the head of a breakdown group. Have they bothered to ask themselves what benefit, or rather, change, the country has received from their services to supposedly save it?

What about all the hysterical reactions to the so-called "state of emergency," which does not add any powers to the President that she doesn't already have? It is like the "state of belligerency" declared among—was it the Ombudsman? Or the Senate? Or the Congress? Nobody described or understood what for. The fact is that there is an emergency situation because there was an attempt by a faction of the military to influence support from the government and to solicit participation through the chain of command. And it is likely that this attempt was made with the support, tacit or otherwise, of others. And it is likely that even members not all elements of those participating in the arrest celebration may want to exploit the situation for their own ends. Provided that the police act within normal channels, which is the case, with ruling the country prevention to make sure that the authorities are indeed only peaceful celebrations of a glorious moment in our history?

After all, the spirit of Edsa is not dead, as many people say, perhaps to excuse their inability to mobilize a crowd now in the streets. It is very much alive—not in those who will serve up agenda or who think of it as the narrow sense of street protests—but in the quiet heroes engaged in the noble task of nation-building, especially in their own communities, who exercise people power as an instrument to make a better life for themselves, like the parents who work with local officials to improve the education of their children (i.e., synergies, about which I have often written), or who make sure that their local officials are accountable for the internal revenue allotments, or who strive to make the Justice system work in their own backyard, or who check on the recall of non-performing local officials, or who insist projects that endanger their environment.

There are other manifestations of people power at a broader level. Like the private sector, General Eduardo, that is on guard against selfish in spite that it has driven countless people to help build not only homes but the things communities but the underprivileged. Like government officials both low and high (from Comelec at the Commission on Audit, and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo) who have been and who are engaged in carrying out building in spite the distractions and publishing around them.

To those who are disappointed with the impeachment proceedings but know that the ultimate sanction is the accountability process in a democracy, that is the elections. Hence, those objections to the No-El systems and their severance by truly credible elections in 2007. A Congress with a different composition can pursue the "charges" of the issue of national leadership.

There are thousands more like them around the country. This year I am celebrating Edsa with them, because of them, for keeping the flame of Edsa alive for all of us.

State defends itself

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassman

THE FORCES THAT CONVERGED ON EDSA SHRINE yesterday against the Arroyo administration were those of the Left, the Right and opposition politicians, principally from the camp of Joseph Estrada. The Left's group was escorted around the Edsa Shrine, which was officially to stay calm. Later in the day, hands-on people in the group led by Bayan's Satur Ocampo and the president of Gabriela Women's Party, Liza Maza, tried to incite people to go to Malacañang. Ocampo and Maza were arrested by the police at around 5 p.m.

* * *

By 3 o'clock this column yesterday, appeals were being made to former President Cory Aquino to answer the call of patriotism and keep her followers out of harm's way. Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez, chair of the Senior Citizens Movement for Good Government, and Rizal Gov. Casimiro "Jun" Ynares, Jr. asked Aquino "to please help preserve and promote the democracy which we all fought for in Edsa." Ilon Aquino-Junio, Cory's niece, said her aunt, surrounded mostly by Estrada aides, Abansadistas and Cory on pinapunta lang siya ng mga Erap's followers, and the viscous talk and fights. In a study between these two extremes, Aquino is found to be leaning more on the side of Erap's followers. Let Edsa Shrine stay, she pleaded. Her supporters all those have figured prominently since the first assassination caused Marcos and those amongst during the Cory years. If they are indeed behind this new upheaval, then it is time that some responsibility always a step ahead.

* * *

The manipulation of tremble and the need to

per a bundle on the situation shutdown were apparent in their minds on GMA, her Cabinet and members of Congress debated what measures to take. What emerged as a clear option was the declaration of a national emergency. Fabian Ver, former President Marcos' brother-in-law who guided the Cabinet council that declaration was the legacy of forces of the opposition, the extreme Left as well as the extreme Right, such as the Reformed movement, the Alyansa ng mga Nagkaisang Pilipino, which, dressed in a Pope Christ-style suit, finally announced the declaration in Filipino, the mass was very manifest and came across as forceful and accompanied of the situation.

* * *

The congressional and the subsequent declaration of national emergency caught most people by surprise. Some of the people in the know, and the observance of the National Day of the Republic of Estonia, hosted by its honorary consul, Dr. Jose Rafa. The guests comprised about one hundred for bringing the Edsa months, and appreciated the lack of traffic.

* * *

The declaration caused most lawyers and even many judges and prosecutors to check copies of the Constitution and search for its basis. The relevant provision that they were in basic law. Its Bill of Rights states quickly pointed out Article 2 of Sec. 4 and Sec. 23 of Sec. 17. Art. 2, Sec. 4 provides that "The prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people." And in that case, it could be against those and present danger to the State. Art. 17 of Sec. 17 reads, "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the President may, for a limited period, promulgate decrees, orders or instructions, under restrictions he prescribed by it, suspend the writ of habeas corpus or arrest, the operation of any presently-existing public utility or business affec-

ted with public interest." Words like "temporary interest" flow thick and fast.

Police reinforcement of equipment to the state of emergency declared after the May 1, 2001 attacks on Malacañang by Erap's compatriots, but there are lawyers who argue that the invocation does not give the police the same powers as those in Sec. 23, 2000, the International Bar of the Philippines took their Executive Director, Rolando Quimbo, APP Chief Angelo Reyes and PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson to court for striking what the lawyers felt were violations of the law. The government officials won that case and that victory is now cited as a precedent in yesterday's declaration.

* * *

Yesterday, there was a feeling among some lawyers that the basis for the declaration of a state of emergency remained unclear. Within the corridors of power, the attorneys gave their opinion that in the light of the arrest of prominent leaders.

But all through this, various forces rallied behind GMA, sensing her supreme hours of support the congressmen, governors, mayors and other local officials. Most significant was the early support of the Southern Command, the biggest in the AFP. Predictably, many of the protesters supported. ERAP and other "coalition" leaders. Personally, I felt this more coming.

* * *

All these destabilization moves are universally and and in bad for us. Time to Aquino two weeks ago for the 20th anniversary of Benito Juntan's martyrdom, and I noted that the previous has become quite progressive, with big banks, dropping interest rates and more investments. Even the value of our currency has risen. Edsa 2 is one of the Dish 20 protests provinces. Iloilo also in Batista and Siaya Visayas recently and now how they have progressed, while good infrastructure and prosperity are evident. Even the economic forecasters are cautious in the judgment of these impressive trends ruling agencies, with our more optimistic are to believe that budget deficits has shrunk as the government has begun to live within its means, the economy is looking good. But one political situation remains unstable. Why does it have to be so?

Déjà vu all over again

AT LARGE

Rosa Jimenez David

YET I HESITATE TO CALL OUR CRISIS AGAIN.

Filipinos might have felt like quoting former hero Erik Santos' pinoy manager Ingg Remo upon hearing reports that Gen. Angelo Reyes was assuming "force majeure" powers under the state of emergency declared on Edsa, Feb. 24 would seem not to be the most tension-filled and dangerous of the four days of that uprising. Several nerving points were reached during the Edsa 2 days, from the 11th Hello Garci blog and the resistance and eventual refusal of the loyalist troops in Camp Aguinaldo to fire the guns trained on the rebel troops in Camp Crame. Even the arrest of Erap's cronies and the plan early yesterday morning in Camp Aguinaldo, which, depending on one's source, is a "disclosure," "coup attempt" or "withdrawal of support from the government" have yet to be resolved. In a mere press conference, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Defense Chief Sec. Avelino Cruz Jr. tried to convince the public after the last declared "no withdrawal of support from the armed administration, apparently in full view and acknowledgment of the commander in chief.

* * *

THE BLOOD is not lost on us.

If President Arroyo assumed the office by virtue of a revolution, then Reyes' move to hold more measures the recovery of the original by declaring a state of emergency in the middle of the four-day observance of Edsa's 20th anniversary.

Much the same point was raised by EP pa-

Rosa Jimenez David

lessor Randy David in his interviews with news anchors prodding over the live coverage of yesterday's dramatic events. David said he was more viewed as a symptom of his unrest during the dispersal of a group of rallyists stationed at the corner of Edsa and Ayala, which seemed restless in the face of the arrest of the Erap cronies and implied battle lines on the Shrine's visible heroes and the people. Yesterday, it had seemed the "battle" was joined again, with police officers in full battle gear and military vehicles encircling their right to peaceful assembly.

Even as Cebuan officials and local government executives gathered in Malacañang assured the Cebuanos that all was well in the city, the television was "back to normal," police were busy arresting chaos in the streets, enforcing the President's ban on all assemblies as part of her declaration of a state of emergency.

Where is one to celebrate the Spirit of Edsa?

* * *

THE PRESIDENT and her officials were kind just explaining the basis for the declaration of a state of emergency, citing a rapid escalation of the events that "led to the arrest of Gen. Reyes and Gen. David's acute struggle to justify her orders ...even likening the situation at one point to a catastrophe is confused disaster... but were hard put providing details as to how exactly mutinous it threw to the government.

Erap sought to downplay the significance of Lim's pronouncements, saying it came after a "disappointment" that the Legal Panel of the Senate and Lim's declaration just a bit of bravado or face-saft, would that mean to the Republic was in peril?

The military was quick to point that their orders were issued and that their soldiers and troopers

Clearing the deck

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

raids have more managed to perpetrate those actions in power and had on the poor Filipino like the powerful leaders. For the 4th time, what happened to obvious occurrence of corruption?

We have to need presidential Arroyo and EP president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to find the truth. Senator report the anti-exploiting the specific recommendations of the Feliciano Commission. But there are still some issues that remain unresolved. The Senate has adopted P1,000 per month (P9 billion) to finance the Philippine Retirees Act program, provided we put up an equivalent amount. Remember that special account in the National Treasury covering the funds from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes? We still have the part fund, and if so, has the United States begun to release the pledged $200 million?

As the first Catholic female secretary under President Macapagal-Arroyo, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral is challenged to tackle the Philippine Centenarians. What important reforms has he instituted? The AFP's order of war contributions to field troops is down 11.7% (would-order mandated is 2.5 to 3 of the budget) and the Philippine Navy's order of battle stands, the AFP personnel budget unadjustably be reduced in FY 11 billion against the present 106 billion—the savings of P5 billion can be used to improve their equipment. Last year, Congress passed the All Force Act—don't even have enough planes for training and now still funding out its rule waiting for functional modifications.

Standard useful manner in the case of plans to

prove all accountable. The economic officials were just as gung-ho, saying that despite the foreboding news, the economic indicators were holding strong and that a great deal of foreign investments and businesses were still optimistic about their investments in the country. If that is so, then why is the country in state of national emergency?

* * *

ONE of the plans in my contemplated for the observance of Edsa's 20th anniversary (since shelved, I suppose) was for the staging of a long unbroken line of people linking arms in the already-present of "Angelo's bridge" all the way from the Shrine name along Roxas Boulevard in Manila to Makati's where another library was under rounds, and down to the Edsa Shrine.

If a human chain of people can be "kapit-bisig" would have been an awesome sight, a symbol of the Filipino people's continuing faith in freedom and democracy, of their willingness to put their lives on the line to protect the state democracy and freedom, and their determination to calm the nation and bring the struggle to greater heights.

Has yesterday, all attempts at "kapit-bisig" even metaphorically were broken up and dispersed. Perhaps the Arroyo administration has indeed learned the "right" lesson from 20 years ago and rose from the first years ago. Don't allow any number of people to be able to resort to so-called "critical mass." Put down each and every attempt. Answer small, to drum a crowd and build a momentum for protest. Intimidate the people and surround the streets with military and police. Call the protesters "praetorian," or simply indifferent to daily battle strikers.

But is the President, I fear, ignores the symbolic power of Edsa, and the powerful feelings this 20th anniversary evokes. The day of reckoning may not arrive for all or factors today or tomorrow but her government's days are numbered. Arroyo can no only re-learn those days she's arrived.

In which case another Edsa then a game-saving only appease. "If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."

Living the spirit

AS THE NATION COMMEMORATES THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY of the first People Power revolution, it is the first time Jaime Cardinal Sin is not present.

Without Cardinal Sin, Edsa 1 could have no such an effective unity. Ballots and bombs would have stirred down on Camp Crame instead of rosaries and prayers. Banks would have been thrown instead of food and bread. Crimes would have

been planned in

unofficial records of her

greatness and have

for as we already

minds addicted on

Edsa, and a great

bloodless, peaceful

revolution was not

carefully waged by

love the eyes of the

world.

YOUNG BLOOD

Marlene Noel

D. Bayarcal

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the many hardworking students.—Ed.

The current

might have been a

big gamble when he rallied upon the Rock, meeting with the priests and nuns, to protect before Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos. But he must have known that his call was a sure bet, not because of his own charisma, but because he knew he was doing God's will and he was just acting as his humble instrument.

Truly, man's folly is God's wisdom. What kind of people would use their own bodies as shields against guns and grenades to protect two "rebels"? And what kind of soldiers would not use their armaments to remove obstructions to their mission? A sane person would just go home and resume his/her regular job to provide for his/her family. A lone soldier would use every means to accomplish his objective. In saving the one they did in Edsa, these people would appear to be "insane" in the eyes of ordinary people. But to Christ-lovers, they were people inspired by God.

Many people need our aid. Where is the sea of compassion coming Edsa? We are still a nation in crisis. Politicians are still greedy for position, power and money. Where is the love and power that reigned over Edsa in 1986? Have the people changed? Only God's age and politicians have changed, for the worse and for the better.

To those who ask this question, let me relate an interesting legend I first heard from a priest who was celebrating Mass on the fifth anniversary of Edsa 1 in January.

A woman died and arrived on the bottom of the River of the Afterlife. She was brought by the boatman of the underworld across the river to the realm of departed souls. Upon arriving on the other side, she was asked if she wanted to drink water from a stream. There were streams of forgetfulness, which would erase all memory of her years on earth, she was told.

She asked the boatman, "If I drink this cup, will I forget how much I suffered and the tragedy I experienced?"

"Yes," he replied, "you will forget all your sadness together with every moment of joy."

"Will I forget my failures and mistakes?"

"Yes, your failures will evaporate into the mist of oblivion, and you will be reborn anew."

"Will I forget the people who neglected and abused me?"

"Yes, those who hurt you will vanish from memory, as will the people who loved you and those you loved in return."

The woman took some moments to think things over. Then she shook her head and said, "I cannot do this. I will not drink the waters of forgetfulness. I choose to remember everything."

We choose to remember so Edsa became there is something, many things that happened there that can work to transforming and restoring. People strive to raise hope amidst the ugly reality. Let us not forget the glorious hours in Edsa in 1986 and 2001. This should not be an idle and forgotten, it should be remembered and revived.

Cardinal Sin has passed away. He is still in crisis. Most of our politicians still are according to their own selfish interest. People are being killed as they sit in parties on the streets. And there are people in need of being taken in Edsa in 1986 and 2001!

Amid this discouraging situation, the Church continues to remind us not to lose hope. We may get fed up with the unabated corruption we see in public offices and businesses but we must not lose hope. We must not lose faith in God who can still work wonders with impunity. He may not drained just marching the rallies and never promises to denounce wrongdoing in government. But let us not be indifferent to what we see and what we hear. For if the moment we become indifferent to the evil we see around us, then all hope is gone.

We may not see the spirit of Edsa animating public offices but it is still being manifested by people of good will. These people embody our hope, our hope that as a nation, we can overcome crisis after crisis. Edsa, Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, has been split in two by the EDSA Shrine. Thousands upon thousands of the noble, and study on this highway, unite themselves themselves in 1986 and 2001. Just as glorious where riches and with shining faces, but through the ordinary people who responded to the cardinal's invitation to a feast of love and friendship.

Today the same people represent our hope, those people who have lived the spirit of Edsa. Let us not leave them alone, but instead let us join them. And then maybe, the nation will manifest themselves through us again.

* * *

Mail to: Noel D. Bayarcal, 20, is a second year Philosophy student at San Carlos Seminary.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph, together with your address, age and the school you graduated from or are studying in. If required, the paper also prefers holding and the purpose you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Outmoded nationalism

"In defending the outmoded nationalistic provisions of our Constitution, the bishops are out of the loop in globalist economics. Under the CBCP (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines) world view, the likely scenario will be only small Filipino explosives over foreign capitalists."

—Jose Antonio Lefthouse Sandoval, saying the bishops are should only be consulted but not repeated

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Tale of two presidents

THERE IS A STRIKING SIMILARity between Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the late Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos attended the Commission on Appointments himself in power and cobbled his regular "consensus" at earlier breakfasts.[1] GMA proposes Cabinet change to select the heads of government from presidential to parliamentary, hoping to install herself as president or prime minister.

Marcos didn't name generals; instead, he rewarded them one of two. GMA just appoints them to higher civilian positions.

Marcos had 4000 tarnished, scratch and scrounge soldiers to frighten the brutal dispersal of students and protesters. GMA has CPR (cuddly-wuddly preemptive response) to gently rise some feeling of crisis in prominent opposition leaders. Same-ing, different-ation.

Marcos organized the dreaded death squads to "salvage" traditionally enemied student activists who defied his dictatorship rule. GMA has let loose killers to no reservation, and they have murdered journalists and militants. Under both presidents, most of these murderous assaults remain unsolved.

Marcos fed the dogs in the military and the police so that they wouldn't bite their hands or bite the also-distributed noodles in the poor and hungry people to oppress them.

By the way, besides Marcos and Mike Arroyo have nothing similarities, no, Ilocos Sur? Your guess is as good as mine.

Marcos was described as thievish because of Paras Gifts, no, has a choice. Letters of Lobo.

—RENE S. SACSAC,
secretary general,
Alliance of Unified Transport and Telecom Organizations of the Philippines (AUTOG),
Unit 309, Bartolome Building Condominium, 2260 Asuncion St., Malate, Manila

The spirit behind 'insignificant' 20th Edsa anniversary

I WANT TO AIR MY DISAPPOINTment over the 20-year government's decision to downplay the 20th anniversary of the Edsa Revolution. I have been forgiving of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's past transgressions because I believed she was still the "least" person to lead this nation. But these past few days, I've been seeing the ugly side of our President.

Not wanting to put herself in the same spotlight with her former office Cory Aquino, the MGB[2] chairman seems calling the last inauguration, she decided to forgo a milestone anniversary (ten years ago) anniversary but the 20th to be worthy of Edsa by presiding over an almost non-existent and insignificant celebration.

I pity the people who put their lives on the line just so this country's citizenry could thrive. Their efforts seem to have been forgotten by the very person who benefited so much from it.

Edsa II happened because the people have rediscovered in Edsa I the power they can wield over a wrong administration.

I guess the people's apathy nowadays may be due to the fact that they've forgotten this inherent power. And this low key celebration in EDSA's area of keeping the spirit of Edsa forgotten, to remain the survival of her besieged, unpopular administration.

—JAN Cleofas DUENAS,
jan_cuenas@Yahoo.com

An Edsa experience in Iraq in the year 1986

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (Baghdad, Iraq) during Edsa I. I came to learn of what was happening in Edsa on Feb. 22, 1986, from the American Broadcasting Company (ABC).

In the days that followed, ABC regularly broadcast an update on the events every hour, and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) every one and a half hour. So I know what was happening in Edsa Philippines in those historic days of 1986, probably more than most Filipinos in Manila.

On Feb. 26, upon learning of the departure of Ferdinand Marcos and the assumption of Pres. Cory Aquino, I decided to some home to Manila.

As a resident of Iraq at that time, I was required to obtain an exit visa from that country. The process usually would take about a week, but the director of immigration, who was also elected about what was happening in the Philippines, approved my visa in just one hour. And so I came to stay.

—LEOVIGILDO J. BEBOLORA,
2244 Oranola St., Makati City

LETTERS

Leftist tag

THE ARAMORA ALLIANCE FOR the Advancement of People's Rights feels the pressure for giving attention and space to pressing issues confronting our nation, particularly those pertaining to human rights. We are thankful that human rights organizations like ours are given the chance to present our findings on cases involving human rights violations.

However, our attention has been drawn to certain news items referring to Karapatan as a leftist group/left-wing organization. (PDI, 12/3/03; 2/13/03) The tag seems to suggest that our human rights problems are vim many as a result of our being a "leftist group."

Unanimously we, the tag misdirects the assessment of military officials that we are a front organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines, a justification that the military all too often uses to summarily execute civilians, human rights workers included.

We are being subjected to a vilification campaign, which not only puts our field members at greater risk but also hinders us from getting immediate assistance in extreme. To date, 32 Karapatan human rights workers have been killed under the Arroyo administration, six of them overseas.

Karapatan is and will always be an umbrella organization of different human rights organizations, desks, institutions and individual advocates operating within the framework of law. As a citizen's watchdog on human rights, it is not duty to observe how the Philippine government, as a signatory to human rights conventions, complies with the highest standards set by human rights instruments. Repeated cases of violations committed by men currently forces against its citizens are documented by our organization as we advocate for the respect of the full scope of the Filipino people's human rights.

—RENATO CESPEDES,
public information officer,
Karapatan,
karapatan.pio@gmail.com

CHED's anti-youth CMO 14

WE REGRET THAT THE RECENT Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order No. 14, Series of 2003 (CMO 14) has ceased to the principle of democratic consultation and must be reviewed by Congress.

CMO 14 purportedly regulates the dispensation of tuition and other school fees amid the growing outrage of students and parents over annual tuition and other fee hikes. Yet, one glaring feature of the said order is that it allows tuition and other fee increases without student consultation, if the proposed increase is less than or equivalent to the prevailing year's inflation rate.

CHED condemns logic in setting the prevailing inflation rate as an index to the sum of allowable increase in tuition and other fees is a joke when the prices of basic commodities are at an all-time high, given the recent implementation of the value-added value added tax (VAT) and soaring oil prices.

Even in cases where students are consulted and a dispute ensues, CMO 14 favors school owners. It automatically approves applications for increases and now lists what the CHED feels to be as such disputed. We suggest that the applications be conferred until such time that the bodies can convene and decide on the cases.

Undeniably, CHED's CMO 14 is simply a token response to the serious concerns of our country's youth regarding access to higher education. Worse, it has disastrous implications for the millions of young Filipinos.

So it has done scientists time in the past, the CHED, as the architects of how the government exercises its obligation to build an educational industry, is once again serving us back on the Filipino youth.

—ALDEN ESTRELLA,
secretary general,
National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP),
nusp_national@yahoo.com

Undiminished by the ridicules

I AM A CHRISTIAN AND WILL soon probably die as one. But I do not really know how I'd feel if Christ were caricatured in an Arab newspaper as one starving Bush's wars of aggression in the Middle East. Perhaps, like many other Christians, I would just pout and ask for His forgiveness of those who blasphemy Him for "they do not know what they do."

Any fact with me than Christ has reminded the same forever, neither demeaned nor diminished by those who ridicule Him—from the Pharisees and the Roman soldiers to modern-day atheists and agnostics.

A few years ago, I came across a caged Richard Harris soliloquy in which he asks (I'll roll memory): "Who are you to command me into a battle and shoot me into someone's heart?" To paraphrase that quote, I dare ask: "Who are you to forge God into a science and use it to cut asunder one's head? Fear who?"

The more tragedy, more lamentable and more provoking, a song blurs, a request of peace, forgiveness and self-sacrifice, as in succor to bring, detain and kill helpless, innocent teenagers in a horrific manner.

Brainwashings are perfectly acceptable, even necessary at times. Removing French products may be justified but not the bashing of fluent, enthusiast and, usually not the imposition of a "death sentence" on the consumers.

The most important consideration is how to balance freedom of the press and civilization of religion, both of which at the front be value inherent right of free expression. Sacrificing one for the sake of the other could be fatal to all freedom-loving peoples, regardless of their race or creed.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MANUEL,
420 Gen. A. Pascual St., San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal (Montalban)

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Ninoy Aquino. His fearless views have inspired us for over 20 years.

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Trees keep falling in Aurora forests

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ILLEGAL LOGGING activities have remained rampant and unchecked in at least two Aurora towns even on the heels of killer landslides in 2004, a Catholic priest told the Inquirer on Wednesday.

Fr. Antonio Evangelista, of the St. Patrick Parish in Dingalan town, said it was through the efforts of the parish pastoral council that policemen and foresters from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources seized 2,222 board feet of "tropicon ofilig-loaded tea truck in Barangay Paltic on Monday.

Evangelista said the logs were hauled by boat from Barangay Ditumabo/poran in San Luis town.

He said the cargo would have easily been shipped out of Dingalan had not the parishioners insisted that the DENR and the police move to seize them.

He said the police later taken custody of the truck owned by Johnny Dancon of Dingalan. Barangay bought the logs from Elmer Juan, who was arrested in the operations.

Information gathered by the council showed that the trees were being felled in Aurora near the source of Dingalan and San Luis.

"Illegal logging is rampant here and most of the trees are freshly cut," the priest told the bishops by phone earlier this morning.

He said in Barangay Paltic, Dingalan, where more than 100 people died in the 2004 landslides, trees are cut on an almost daily basis.

Parishioners have observed that dump trucks dock at the bay at least every night and unload logs.

Benjamin Mina, DENR provincial officer, denied that illegal logging has resumed on a rampant scale.

He confirmed, however, that in 2005, foresters have seized some 115,000 board feet of lumber from various parts of Aurora.

"May nagpapalusot pa rin (There are those who try to steal wood)," Mina told the bishops.

He said only the industries (Independent Corp. in Casiguran, in the northern part of Aurora, has been allowed by the DENR to cut some operations.

The timber license permits of eight other companies were more than 100,000 hectares of forests in that part of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges remained suspended, Mina said. Reporter Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

CHILDREN who survived the landslide at Guinsaugon Village in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte fall in line for a drink of clean water at an evacuation center in the town.

ROUNDUP

Bomb threat in Malaisa

CITY OF MALOLOS—Work at the city hall has resumed on Friday after a man called up an employee to tell him that a bomb would explode in the building. City police chief Supt. Manuel Layman said Concepcion Chico, a member of Mayor Danilo Domingo's staff, said the man called local 10-28 a.m. and warned her that a bomb would explode at 11 a.m. The man identified himself as a member of a local militant group and then hung up. Chico said. Lahon said he asked militant groups not to stage rallies in front of building while a police team searched for the bomb. After more than an hour of searching, the team failed to find any explosive. Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Collision kills 3 Koreans, Pinoy

TARLAC CITY—Two Korean businessmen and a Filipino were killed when their vehicles collided on Maule Bay highway in Gerona, Tarlac, on Friday. Police said Choi Jin Kim, 33, and Sung Duk Kim, 45, were on their way to the Nissy Rubber Industrial Land Inc. plant when their Hyundai Grace ran hit a car followed Mitsubishi Lancer in Barangay Palauig/agan. The car driver, Noriel de Guzman, 41, also died while two Koreans and a 34-year-old Korean woman were hurt. A member of the Korean Union Church said the victims were scheduled to return to Korea on Friday. Manuel Arabit, PDI Central Luzon Desk

OFWs donate money

SARAGANI, Davao Occidental—A group of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Canada recently donated money for the construction of 58 houses for typhoon-victims here. Efren Cudilan, General Balliga provincial head, said the 58 houses are part of the 116 units that would be built in Barangay Alaan here. The construction is funded by the Assassi to the City of the Poor (Bagong) an organization of OFWs in Canada. Ben Rhoan Abran, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 killed in Dagupan

DAGUPAN CITY—A village official and a member of a civilian volunteer organization were killed and Wednesday by two motorcycle-riding men in Malasiqui town, police said. Police said Ramon Pulagarna, 48, head of Barangay Bakitan in Malasiqui, and Lucio Tantay, 55, were on their way home in a motorcycle when they were gunned down. Pulagarna had just attended the monthly meeting of the Association of Barangay Councils when he hitched a ride with Tantay. Yolanda Catalo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Hot logs seized

LUBANGCATA—Police seized at least 1,200 board feet of allegedly cut logs on Wednesday in Lutak, Sultan Kudarat. Lutak town police chief Insp. Bienvenido Tuscan said the logs were found in Barangay Rajamdan. Persons responsible were also arrested by the police town personnel confiscated chain saws and other forest products. Joel Ray Mallari, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Banned recruitment firm continues to operate

BAGUIO CITY—A MIGRANTS' group in Asia-Pacific and Middle East has asked the government to look into the activities of a Saudi Arabia contracting agency that has been banned from recruiting Filipino workers.

The Asian-Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), in a statement, said the Al-Gaithan Construction contracting company had been linked to abuses allegedly committed against overseas Filipino workers it deployed in the Middle East.

Through two Manila-based recruitment agencies, the company last year sent 13 women from Baguio, Benguet and La Union to work for a Saudi hospital.

The women have been on strike since early this year after they screened their employers of breach of contract. They were allegedly not paid six months as janitors in a mental hospital but were made to work as caregivers in a rehabilitation center in Riyadh.

Their complaints also included illegal pay deductions, non-payment of overtime pay and lack of food.

Anthony Ibarra, welfare officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) in the Cordillera, confirmed that the station had been banned by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration from recruiting workers due to reports of abuses.

The APMM said: "A couple of years ago, the Philippine government banned the Saudian contracting company, only after pressures done by migrants' organizations and groups. Why were they able to recruit again?"

The company recruited the first batch of OFWs from Benguet, Baguio and La Union in March last year, a month before the ban took effect, it was learned.

The second batch was recruited in April, according to Flora Bellosa, spokesperson of Migrante-Cordillera. Bridget Cabusa, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Baguio learns from Wowowee, secures flower fest

BAGUIO CITY—POLICE ARE recruiting the largest crowd control operation in the city's history this week by deploying 1,300 policemen, paramedics and civilian volunteers to secure the parade lanes of two independent Baguio Flower Festival organizers.

Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, city police director, said the deployment is calculated to handle thousands of tourists and residents, who may show up today and tomorrow to watch two parades separately organized by Mayor Braulio Yaranon and by lawyer Donna m Benguet, the festival's founder.

Yaranon is heading the activities of the Baguio Flower Festival Association (BFFA), led by Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon. The foundation is feuding with the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) for control over the 11-year old event.

Benguet, BFFFI chair, is the acknowledged founder of the Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival, and had been running the event until former Mayor Bernardo Vergara made the privately funded festival a city project in 2002.

Both Benguet and Vergara decided to proceed with the foundation's creation of the 2006 festival to assist BFFFI stake in the participle and routes drawing winners.

The previous Panagbenga parades and other festival-related activities had drawn about 100,000 tourists yearly. More than 25,000 people are expected to crowd the sidewalks of Session and Harrison roads to watch the parades.

The twin parades have turned into a security nightmare for the city government, which is refinancing Session from the Feb. 9 inauguration of the Philippine Arena in Bocaj City, that killed over 71 people, until August Lipotsals of the city tourism office.

Both festival organizers are streamlining the lists of people who will be allowed to secure the parade, from media organizations were asked to cut down the number of reporters who will be deployed to cover the parades.

Yaranon had issued Administrative Order 23-on Feb. 8, to counter all public activities to run for up to 12 hours in a day, to ensure that local police will not run handle the volume of participants. Vincent Cabreros, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WORKERS put flowers in a float for today's two celebrations of the Flower Festival.

LANDSLIDE DONATION

The Fortuna Lakers Pasig and the Mt. All Star Sports Association turn over a check for P1 million to the Philippine National Red Cross as donation for relief and rescue operations in Guinsaugon Village. From left are Tony Biggs, Fortuna general manager Liam Tincuk, Hong Kong investor representative, Alan Tan and Red Cross director George Go.

Clamor grows for backpackers' release

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE CONTROversy brewing the arrest of 21 backpackers who were alleged to be an attack on a military detachment in Benguet has drawn the attention of some of the country's amateur musicians.

On Friday, 30 members of punk and rock bands from Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur, Manila, Tarlac, Laguna and Davao City, set up camp at a park here to demand the release of the 21 backpackers who were accused of being New People's Army rebels.

Beverly Longid, vice chair of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, said the backpackers are musicians who belong to a crusade called "Punk's Not Dead."

Longid said the group arrived a few days early to see this year's Baguio Flower Festival parades, so they hitched a ride to Baguio, Mt. Province only to be detained at a police checkpoint in Bagabag, Benguet, on Feb. 14.

The backpackers' parents appealed for their release, saying their children were tortured.

The Cordillera People Democratic Front has claimed responsibility for the raid where two soldiers and a militiaman were killed.

The suspects bore signs of injuries, the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said on Wednesday.

Senior Supt. Marvin Reinlada, CIDG-Cordillera director, said the medical reports indicated that the 21 backpackers, now detained at the Benguet Provincial Jail, bore bruises.

The Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag) and the CIDG are sending to get two journalists among the group of backpackers released to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said Longid.

Relatively said he would help facilitate the transfer of a 15-year-old girl from Sheltron City and a 16-year-old boy from Pasig City.

Flag and CHRA would not prefile using a testimony made before the National Bureau of Investigation last week by Ramiro Lao, 24, the backpacker who police accused as the leader of the rebels.

Lao jumped off a jeepney fleeing him to the Benguet prosecutor's office on Feb. 15, and surrendered to Ricardo Pangan, NBI-Cordillera director, to testify that the backpackers had been tortured.

Charged with robbery with homicide were Lao; the cave mouth, Antonio Dumao, 18, and Jether Villagonia, 21, of Bayombong City; Ben Pandino, 19, of Lagawe; Darwin Ringas, 20, of Tinoc; Jo Sison, 20, and Neil Daniel Balacuit, 25, of Pasig City, and Arvie Nolito, 21, of Lucena City.

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INQUIRER Visaysas

US MARINES clear the debris left by a landslide which buried Barangay Binlayagan in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. AP/Lyn Ong

'What we have seen has been horrendous'

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

COMMANDER MANUEL "Doc" Binding, the Filipino-American chaplain of the United States 3rd Marine Expeditions Force, has been in practically all operations with the troops.

As chaplain of the US Navy for 16 years, he had consoled those devastated in the 9/11 New York tragedy, traveled to help the poor in East Timor and provided spiritual guidance to soldiers in Iraq.

But in his stock that has taken him to seven countries around the world, never or has the pain of the people been so close to home for him, Binding said.

"This time I am working among my people, my blood brothers and sisters. My heart goes to the families of those who perished. What we have seen here has been horrendous," he said in a telephone interview.

Binding said he stood in the midst of the mud-covered Barangay Binlagan, St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte province on Feb. 22 and prayed that if there were people still alive beneath where he stood, they would not give up hope until rescuers got to them.

"The chances of finding people alive is getting slimmer as the days go by but we cannot and do not want to lose hope," said Binding, 49, who was born in Talisay City, Negros Occidental.

Binding was 23 when he left Negros Occidental for the United States 26 years ago, in 1979, to study to be a Protestant pastor on a scholarship in Southwestern College in Phoenix, Ariz. He joined the US Navy in 1990. Binding's mother, Emilinda, now lives in San Diego, California. His father, Manuel Jr., has since died.

On Feb. 22, Binding first had another first: He met a president of the Philippines in the person of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who visited ground zero in Guinsaugon.

"I have met two US presidents—Bill Clinton and George Bush—but never a Philippine president," he said. "My general took me to meet her and I told her I was dedicated with the Filipino people and the US and Thank you, thank you for your help."

He also met and spoke with former First Lady Imelda Marcos who visited Guinsaugon on the same day Ms. Arroyo came.

Another Filipino in the US Marine Corps helping in the rescue efforts in Guinsaugon is Staff Sgt. Ernil Silvar, 34, of Bacolod City. Silvar, who joined the US Marines in 1988, is a member of the battalion's landing team.

Silvar, in a separate phone interview, said there were about 40 fellow-serving Bacolod men in St. Bernard.

"I was proud of what I do. I was glad to be of help to my fellow-men in my country. It is a good opportunity to come over and be of help," he said.

"The situation here is indescribable. I thought I was only having nightmares or a small landslide but what we found here was a massive tragedy," he added.

Binding described packages to the survivors of the landslide that contained food, toiletries and slippers.

He said he has been helping in the rescue efforts, feeling more and to help the people and providing counseling to the rescuers.

Binding was among the first 25 US Marines who arrived in Guinsaugon on Saturday, a day after the landslide.

He said he was chosen to join the US team because he speaks Bisaya and Cebuano, and can serve as an interpreter.

While the 9-1-1 tragedy sure devastating, what makes the Guinsaugon tragedy "horrendous" is the fact that 200 school children were among those buried beneath the mud, he said.

"They are buried 30 feet below ground zero with mud and boulders from one half of a mountain having covered the village," he said.

On Feb. 22, Binding was among those who officiated at the mass burial of 57 of the dead found beneath the mud.

There were 800-1,000 soldiers helping in the search on land while the warships on Leyte, he said.

Binding said a US emergency response team in the disaster site, composed chaplains of different denominations and Catholic priests, were providing counseling to families of the victims as well as helping rescuers, health workers and representatives of nongovernment groups a ran.

"We have to help them cope with the fact that what they see here one day is what will bother them in their sleep, and they will remember the smells and the grief," he said.

A history of geologic collapses in St. Bernard

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Southern City

THE LANDSLIDE-STRICKEN town of St. Bernard in Southern Leyte was created on Dec. 9, 1954, by virtue of Executive Order No. 84 signed by then President Ramon Magsaysay.

It was previously part of Inasuta municipal town of Cebulan, and was restored at the former Inasuta Municipal, Cebulan's oldest and most cooperative oil, huge farmland area of the town.

Alberto E. Lungcay, editor of the weekly The Tackaban first and native of Cebulan, and the split from the mother town was engineered by a former Leyte governor who almost always lost his election bid to an opposing force the mother town.

A few years later, in June 1961, Cebulan itself changed its name to San Juan, citing negative connotations of its name, such the last word "bak," which is Bisaya for "cowards or fear."

Cebulan was the first large settlement in Leyte established by those from the direction of Conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi in 1565.

From other southern Samar anchorage, a team led by Martin de Goiti, sailing of a small boat, searched for a settlement along the coast of the two main islands facing Leyte Gulf from where they could procure food for the hungry crew. They eventually came to the southern part of Leyte, to a habitation they where they saw up the first time anywhere in Leyte a large village comprising of over 2,000 houses.

From the sea, the Spanish searchers saw scores of people engaged in some activities, while visible at the background were numerous coconuts, Since the place was then a large point being headed with their backs and bundles of corn crops piled on the heads.

The Spaniards concluded that the place was owned by outsiders coming to has provisions. The name of the place they discovered was Cebulan.

Houses on slopes

The inscriptions buried back to their ships anchored near Guiuan, Samar. The entire expedition arrived in Cebulan in the morning of March 6, 1565. A days, plan described this Leyte village in its pristine condition as follows:

"There are anchored within view of Cebulan, an oceanside planted grove of coconut trees and houses between the town. A little further inland, a steep hill and on the slopes more houses, and behind this again many big rice fields and plots of millet and similar crops interwoven in it. A great many people, up on the slope came to anchor, big crowds congregating among the houses and public trees, gazing at the ships and apparently afraid to approach the shore. Pigs, chickens, and dogs seem to be seen around the houses."

When some officials of San Juan sought the author's help last year in seeking historical data that would serve as basis for their town's foundation day we found records which showed that Cebulan was officially separated from the town of Maasing on Sept. 25, 1880, and its parish was established four months later.

And so, San Juan celebrated its first town foundation day last Sept. 25, the old Cebulan's 125th anniversary.

This author coordinated the work on Cebulan history and a Bisaya dramat, adaptation of the San Juan Campus of Southern Leyte University (SLU).

One of the mysteries that Inasuta and I have been trying to solve was the location of a seeming landmark that was described as the Legaspi chronicles. This was a steep cliff on the further inland on which slopes were found many houses, and beyond which there were many large rice fields and plots of millet.

Volcanic eruption

The insight came after I met Lungcay at a press conference last Saturday. While discussing the St. Bernard landslides, he casually mentioned his forebears fell down stone a volcanic eruption in Cebulan in the 19th century.

Suddenly, I had a epiphany. So a stone for a volcanic eruption in Leyte in 1740 which was reported by the Augustinian friar Agustin Maria de Castro sometime in 1779, he said, "In the year forty-one [i.e., 1749], the volcano [presumably Mt. Cebulan, farthest to the east of the town], exploded with fire from six months."

For two months the eyes could see the sea by day and the tumbles heard a whole year and continued later, resulting in great, large, lightning and smoking rains of ash."

Before the above statement, Father De Castro mentioned related disasters in the preceding years.

He said, "In the years of forty-three and forty-four [i.e., 1740-41], there were strong earthquakes that ruined many towns and a mountain collapsed where a hundred fathoms [i.e., 600 feet]."

It is probable that the collapsed mountain that Father De Castro mentioned was close to Cebulan and was the same steep cliff mentioned in the legaspi chronicles, but is now inaccurate.

Last Friday's collapse of an entire zone of Mt. Canahag in St. Bernard seems to be just a repeat of the total collapse of a nearby mountain more than 200 years ago.

HISTORIC accounts indicate that the Feb. 17 landslide in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard was a repeat of the one that happened 200 years ago. photo above

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22 nabbed in alleged Caloocan drug den

AFTERNOON INTERLUDE
A child plays with his new toy as his grandfather looks on after a family picnic at the Luneta Park in Manila. JOEY ARIS

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AT LEAST 22 PERSONS were arrested during a police raid Thursday evening at a compound in Caloocan City where illegal drugs were allegedly being sold.

A police report said the compound, which held several houses, was located in Barangay 66 Zone 6, Disarta 11, Caloocan City. It reportedly had vehicles where one could buy or take illegal drugs.

The raid was conducted by combined operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Northern Police District anti-drugs operatives, who brought along drug sniffing dogs. Seven of those arrested were suspected maintainers of vehicles rented out to shabu users, according to Northern Police District Director Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Several sachets of white crystals believed to be methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and drug paraphernalia were seized in the raid.

Illegal drugs were found on two rented suspects, Bataoil said. Some of those arrested, however, denied being users of being involved in the illegal drugs trade, the police official said.

Bataoil said the raid was carried out following several days of surveillance. The sale of illegal drugs was suspected to be rampant in the compound.

"We received persistent reports that illegal drugs were openly sold and used in the area," Bataoil said.

He added that the raid was part of the district's continuing efforts to weed out notorious pushers in the said hot spot of Metro Manila.

All those arrested would undergo drug testing before charges are filed against them, according to officers on duty. POI Rodolfo Jurado Hipolito

NBI calls 2 more for stampede probe

By Maegan C. Ortiz

ANOTHER ABS-CBN OFFICIAL AND the director of the television game show "Wowowee" were ordered to appear at the National Bureau of Investigation next week in the probe on the stampede that killed 71 people.

NBI National Capital Region chief Fuad Lusaia said they issued subpoenas to ABS-CBN assistant vice president for entertainment Sonsoro Villaluna and "Wowowee" director Norberto Villaseca. The head of Goldlink Security Agency, reportedly hired by the network to manage the Philsports Arena crowd on Feb. 4 when the stampede occurred, will also be summoned by the NBI.

The NBI earlier issued subpoenas to ABS-CBN executive vice president Charo Santos-Concio, Wowowee host Willie Revillame and seven others.

Condo construction halted

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT HAS HALTED the operations of the building contractor of a condominium in Ermita district where a portion of adjacent fence caved in Thursday afternoon.

Mayor Lito Atienza said he already ordered ISH Grunsoft Inc., building contractor of the Adriatico Residences which is reportedly owned by Robinson's Land Corp., to temporarily stop the construction of the structure pending an investigation of the incident.

"In the interest of public safety, I ordered a halt in the operations until after the damages have been assessed and repaired," Atienza told reporters. He added that the contractor would have to answer for the damages, including the rebuilding of the wrecked portion of Adriatico fence and for the two wrecked vehicles "swallowed" by the ground.

The mayor said the city engineering officials' initial assessment showed that the cave-in occurred when the 12-meter sheet pile covering the excavated portion of the area was partially dislodged from its position, weakening the ground structure.

"We are investigating what caused the sheet pile to give way leading to the collapse of the roadway. This may be an accident caused by a miscalculation," he added.

City Engineer Armand Andres said they had already formed a committee to investigate the incident. ISH Grunsoft has yet to explain their versions of what happened.

Witnesses claimed they saw a white L300 van and blue Kia Pregio sink into the ground around 4 p.m., a few minutes after they felt the ground shake violently "like an earthquake." Because most in the incidence which left a hole over five feet deep and more than six meters long. Silver two houses, a tenant crane at 140 at a 15-story building fell to the ground, leaving a hole almost a foot deep.

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MetroBriefs

Nipped in the bud

POLICE arrested Thursday a policewoman and six accomplices for allegedly making money from heroin-caught marijuana inside parked vehicles in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. An entrapment operation conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) led to the arrest of PO1 Rosemel Bagas of the mobile patrol group and Dave Reyes, a city hall employee. They were caught receiving P5,000 in marked money from Nonoy Cleto operatives who pretended to be drug users. Mayor Jejomar Binay, meanwhile, called on the public to be vigilant in reporting illegal activities perpetrated by law enforcers in the city to local authorities. Jaymee p. de

Navotas drive vs illegal drugs

"NAVOTAS Kontra Droga," a community-based program to combat the drug menace, was formally launched in Navotas recently. Mayor Tobi Tiangco, together with Vice Mayor Ric Justo, municipal officials, local police, barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials, school administrators, religious leaders and non-government organizations, including Dangerous Drugs Board and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency officials, have joined forces to ensure the success of the campaign. A total of 104 drug suspects, 98 of them drug pushers, have been arrested by the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Navotas police during the last quarter of the year 2005. Navotas police chief Supt. Gerardo Tolentino said the positive development element that the local police remains on target with Tiangco's objective to make the municipality "drug-free."

Poor Cabinet member now rich

DURING HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY THE Senate on the modernization of the North and South Luzon Railway systems, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon exposed the proposal to draw the railway tracks of squatters.

The senator is trying to obstruct projects he should know that unless the squatters are relocated to sites provided by the government, China and South Korea, financiers of the two projects, will back out from the systems.

And where does that leave us? Back to the Stone Age of dilapidated, tracks alone trains on wood-rail tracks simply because those living along the tracks refuse to budge.

Observers say there are 11,000 squatter families along the railroad tracks in Muntinlupa City which Biazon's son, Rafi, represents in Congress.

Hmmmm.

* * *

THE COMMISSION'S fight against piratical activities is slowly but surely gained ground.

Last week the office of Trade Deputy Trade Representative (USTR) downgraded the Philippines from its "priority watch list" to "watch list."

Credit should go to the hard-strapped Optical Media Board (OMB) under its chair, Felix Salvador. It must be noted that the country has been on the priority list for five years, even before Felix's office or the OMB.

Unfortunately, cash mentality again seized the person. There is now talk that some quarters want Manzano replaced by fellow actor and former Caloocan City mayor Rey Malonzo, a kabalen of the President.

Sources say that the man behind the move is, Jesus Arcilla.

It true, this is simply irrational. It has befuddled even people at the US Embassy Manzano does well in his work and now they want him replaced?

* * *

WHY is it that most people in government think their position allows them to acquire ill-gotten wealth?

Take the case of a Cabinet member who was able to buy a unit in a very expensive condominium in Pasig City a few months after he was given a chance in a sequestered firm.

Before he came to Manila, this guy was so poor he couldn't even afford to buy cigarettes; he mooched from others. Now, he chain-smokes an imported brand.

Before he consented to his post, he took valuables to his province. Now, he has two luxury cars. His wife uses the government vehicle assigned to him.

This guy was notorious in his province for abusing down business establishments and the Chinese community. Now, he walks the corporate halls along with his cohorts.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ain't very discriminating in choosing members of her official family.

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EDSA I 20

FEBRUARY 25, DAY FOUR

By PDI Research

Midnight

Marcos loyalist soldiers fire through tear-bed arms (wiping screenfuls of people on Magsaysay Street. Some of Marcoses' belongings are taken out of Malacañang.

3:30 a.m.

Marines receive an orders to attack Camp Crame are canceled.

3:45 a.m.

Reinforcements onboard planes ordered by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos' bound for Clark Air Base, where they stay for the duration of the revolt.

5 a.m.

On phone in Washington, President Reagan talks (0) Sen. Paul Laxalt if he should resign. Laxalt's reply: "I think you should not, and we intend to." The rest has come.

Marcos tells Labor Minister Blas Ople (who's lobbying in Washington for the Marcos regime, he's not enjoying down because First Lady Imelda Marcos does not want him to.

5:30 a.m.

Marcos himself gives go-signal for his family to prepare to leave.

6 a.m.

Rebel soldiers storm Channel 9's transmitter tower, (which is being held by loyalist troops. Sounds of gunfights are heard (at Ramos residence on Timog Street, Quezon City, where Cesayna Aquino (another children are.

8 a.m.

People are called to guard Cojuangco in San Juancio case Marcos attempts to disrupt Aquino's inauguration as President.

10:15 a.m.

Aquino arrives at Club Filipino. Opposition lawyer Neptali Gonzales reads resolution proclaiming her and former Gen. Salvador Laurel as elected President and Vice President, respectively.

10:46 a.m.

Aquino is sworn into office by Supreme Justice Claudio Teehankee. Entertainment crowd breaks into protest song "Bayan Ko." (R-F Ver.) Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile join singing with hands raised in Laban "L" sign.

11:45 a.m.

Marcos enters Malacañang's Ilocos-revival Hall for his inauguration.

11:55 a.m.

As Marcos raises his hand to take his oath, live coverage is abruptly ended with portion shot from a (viewer)after simultaneously shutting down Channels 2, 4 and 13.

Chief Justice Ramon Aquino is called back for reinstatement of swearing-in before movie cameras.

Marcos is greeted by balcony and waves at some 2,000 people assembled below. Sound (there) "Mother and Motherland"

3:45 p.m.

Loyalist soldiers try to rain through key roadblocks and (put Tomas More Hall inaugural)ground (Gascon City).

FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY: On Feb. 25, 1986, this (source,) of briefs, had two presidents, (right) President Marcos with (smile) greeting his supporters after his oath-taking at the Palace and Cory Aquino taking her oath as president with(Nincy's mother, Doña Aurora, holding the Bible. (For ABC)(Morning issue of Cory and Doy Laurel flashing the Laban sign.

ted "people power" prevails. On Magsaysay, pro-Aquino groups and loyalists running from (Marcos' loyal)ative elash.

6:18 p.m.

(Has Marcos' boatyard Sammy Mancho) (edps offer (1,0 Brig. Gen. Ted)Allen to ask American businessmen or boats to move Marcos from Palace.

5 p.m.

Marcos calls Cesha again to see (if Cathy his daughter) (can) Bibb-cuddling. His sister (can't)sobbing (on) only mothers and books but also (loves of money stored in the) bed (Central Bank chief of Marcos) (campaign.

(Prime Minister Cesar Virata re-)pudiates Marcos' departure with Aquino.

6:38 p.m.

Imee and (Irene Marcos plead with) their father to (save Malacañang at) (or he tells his remaining men that) he has decided to (be there.

7 p.m.

US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth (ends Aquino-)Enrile-ex see (and) (viewed two days in Pasay, Metro Manila, before) boarding (plane). To prevent possible (ragi)ripping of Marcos loyalists, Aquino (orders)

(Malacañang, pieces of luggage are loaded on boats, which proceed to Pangasinan golf course where (3) helicopters are (to collect Marcoses.

7:38 p.m.

Families of (Ver and Edsardo Cojuangco make) to (Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

8:48 p.m.

(Convoy of) (security escorted vehicles) (make) (routine for) (Clark.

9:45 p.m.

(Marcoses and other) (governments officials) (take) (helicopters), (some of their possessions (taken) along with (them.

9:05 p.m.

(First of) (helicopters) (leaves) (Palace) (grounds.

(Shortly) (crowd) (near Malacañang) (applaud) (over) (reports) (that Marcoses) (had) (left).

9:45 p.m.

(Marcos lands in) (Clark and is met) (by) (Fidel)Ramos. People in the area meet) (his) (arrival with) (cheers of "Cory! Cory!"

9:52 p.m.

(Radio dzRH announces: "The Rite-)

THE MILITARY

Salute between an officer and gentleman

By Maj. Gen. Wilfredo G. Cruz (Ret.)

(The author was a Philippine Constabulary colonel and AFP deputy chief of staff for logistics during the Edsa I uprising. As retired in December 1994 as the PNP's director for crime (prevention with) (rank equivalent to) that of major general in the (Armed) Forces.)

ALTHOUGH CAMP AGUINALDO HAD ALREADY surrendered to the New Armed Forces of the Philippines, no such decision had been made by the AFP Logistics Command when Gen. Ramos designated me to take over command of that unit.

With two Philippine Constabulary Special Action Force teams, I crossed Edsa from Camp Crame to Camp Aguinaldo on foot in the company of Minister Enrile and Colonel Honasan, and surveyed the AFP-LogCom perimeter.

Since Philippine Marines were guarding the facility I decided against entering the compound by force, even with "People Power" backing us, because of the probability of bloodshed. Instead, after finding out that the commander of the Marines was Col. Glenn Arao, a member of PMA Class 1970, I got in touch with him through a close friend of his.

I found him to be a true officer and a gentleman. I told him of the situation prevailing in Malacañang and Camp Aguinaldo. The presence of so many people with our (weapons) (around) (them

"Sir, this is not a surrender. We will just leave and return to our barracks with our (firearms," he said. I nodded and we saluted.

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THE MEDIA

When Marcos saw the People Power video

By Sahid Casino

WHILE PHOTOGRAPHING the happy faces of people power Edsa, Ed Gurvida and I found ourselves clambering aboard one of three open trucks with heavily armed rebel soldiers at noon on Feb. 24, 2006.

The destination turned out to be the Broadcast Center on Sobel avenue where other rebel soldiers were holed out since taking over the government-owned Philippine Broadcasting System, or GTV Channel 4. Like ants crawling out from everywhere, people continued running outside, cheering and clapping their hands.

Embracing

As the guns opened, all of us surged inside, yelling and embracing one another as like the rioters in war movies.

Inside, I was elated to find many friends in the corporate media: Johnny Manahan-von Hase, Miss Villareal, Dely Pancake, Harry Gasser. Some production staff I had worked with in Eastern Broadcasting System, channels BBC (TTT 2, RPN TV 9 and BBC 12 in Broadcast City were also there.

We found that to help the revolution, we would have to power up the TV channel, which had been turned off by the rebel soldiers.

Pancake told us he had sent some broadcast engineers in the ground and he would have a technical group to switch on and runs at least one production studio, and a Technical Operations Center, which is the heart of any broadcast-engineering operations.

I volunteered to organize and direct the revolution's newscasts and on-air interviews with rebel leaders. It would be the head newscaster.

I asked Johnny, instead of Miss, who were both multi-awarded TV directors, to handle the live "entertainment" coverage of our broadcast. The other performers in the group would phone and summon up so many entertainment personalities they could.

I then asked Miss, who came with her own broadcast-grade TV cameras and crew, to do her best to roam Camp Crame, commandeer a military helicopter and shoot the scenes of humanizing drama like in one continuous sweep.

Televised Revolt

In no time the last of the "Champs" TV show and the 6pm Hiling Sobley were appearing live on camera. Soon, other entertainment personalities, big and small, came in spontaneously to the live historic broadcast.

It was the happiest and most entertaining televised revolution the world had ever seen.

I set up a newsroom inside the Channel 4 transmission on the second floor. Our problem was how to obtain accurate news and information as we could with practically no equipment on hand, save for a couple of telephones and some typewriters.

The electronic news gathering system were all locked up inside individual lockers in the newsrooms and I refused to break the locks lest we be accused of destroying public property.

We did not have any radio, either, to monitor Radyo Bandido for news about the revolution. Bus was there any feed from the wire services.

Last resort

One last resort was the Ika-6 na Utos. I phoned my household to request via the home 8818 and radio-spiking PBN broadcasts of breaking Philippine news reports from CNN, BBC, NHK, as well as other American, European, and Australian networks, and had me back everything through the Channel 4 telephones and transmitters to receive the recorded tapes.

What news we aired on the Manual Channel 4 consisted from the international media's coverage of breaking People Power events. Their footages were transmitted via satellite for broadcast to their respective countries. The same broadcasts were picked up and re-broadcast by PBN to Chuck Au Base in Pamplona.

In short, the news that we aired about the 1986 Philippine People Power Revolution had to travel around the world first before we were able to broadcast it to our own countrymen.

Jaws dropped

At noontime, Miss' group arrived from Camp Crame with at least two boxes of canned Boysie Rotter Kotsipa, and the most important one of all, the helicopter video of the unseen-ich Edsa crowd.

Our jaws dropped as we confronted the enormous number of breadcrumbs facing Philippines massed on Edsa, from North Avenue to Broadcast Center to Cubao to Camp Crame to Ortigas Avenue to Shaw Boulevard to the Guadalupe bridge, with many a square in between.

What's more, it would be told by reliable Malacañang official that when they finally saw the footage for the first time around 9 o'clock that night, he glimpsed tears forming in the dictator's eyes.

LIBERATION of ETV 4 comes at a cost of the ultimate sacrifice.

THE PEOPLE

The way to a soldier's heart

By Aga Valdez

THE PIERCING SMELL OF TEAR GAS DISPTED TO MY house two blocks from Gate 1 of Camp Aguinaldo and woke me up at 6 a.m. from a 30-minute sleep, all I had for the night.

It was a tweak attack by a company of soldiers in two columns that was out to break up the dancing crowd fronting 15th Avenue and Isaacian road.

Together with my wife, two children and brother, I rushed to the area, joining those who had come to reinforce the crowd.

We fell on our knees and started to pray the rosary in front of the soldiers carrying rifles and waiting for orders from their commanding officer.

Other people beat by the tear gas bombs were gasping for a fight but came with a megaphone pleaded with them to calm down. He was speaking mostly in English and his message wasn't getting through.

I took hold of the megaphone and asked the crowd to settle down. I told the people to pool together whatever food they had and to offer it to the soldiers, who probably still did not have their breakfast and lacked sleep.

Food came from the nearby stores, a bakery and street vendors. Packs of cigarettes and coffee came.

I approached the commanding officer with my intentions... fixed for all to dialogue.

The commander at first refused, but I persuaded him to take a cigarette and lit it for him. As if on cue, the soldiers put down their grenadiers, scrapped our coffee, instant coffee and native pancakes.

We hear back the mood struck with prayers and food.

'Sorry I missed the revolution, Ninoy'

By Bill Faroces
PDI Night Editor

TO MY EVERLASTING regret, I missed the grandmother of all people power revolutions.

When the topic comes up around this time of year as the anniversary of Edsa I, the people around me start recalling where they were and what they were doing —on Edsa of course. They talk of how they had felt finally kicking out a dictator, feelings that I shared but did not get to experience.

I was 18,000 miles away when Edsa I happened. My wife Cheks, daughters Karla and Lucy, living in San Francisco, California, and Chelo was six months pregnant with our son Gabriel, who would be born in May.

After Ninoy Aquino was assassinated in August 1983 and the Filipino people did not rise up soon enough against Ferdinand Marcos, I figured that Cheks and I was going to be around a while longer—perhaps up till the time we planned to return home to the Philippines for good, which was in 1995.

While we slept

So when I turned on CNN on the morning of Feb. 22, 1986, I was surprised by the video coming out of Manila. The events had transpired while we on the other side of the world had slept.

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Vice Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos had turned on their patron Marcos and Jaime Cardinal Sin was calling his flock to Edsa to protect the two men and their supporters who had holed up in Camp Aguinaldo from the tanks Marcos and his chief enforcer Fabian Ver had sent to annihilate them.

Cory Aquino, Ninoy's widow and runaway winner of the snap elections Marcos had called and then so brazenly stolen just weeks earlier, was calmly rallied away in a remote in Cebu.

Shock and awe

Cheks and I sat in front of the TV in shock and awe. Then she began to cry. "We should be there, we should be there," she sobbed.

Yes, we should have been there, Cheks after all, and Lesly Stevens-Filoteo, the editor in chief of this paper, at the time the three of us were working at the Bulletin Today in the '80s, were known as the only staffers with "balls" for continually testing the limits to the Marcos-controlled press. If anyone deserved a ticket to Edsa, Cheks—Lesly as well—was the first one who should have led the way.

Instead, we had to reassure ourselves with monitoring CNN and shuttling what seemed like a endless phone calls to Manila to get updates. Our siblings, cousins, nephews and nieces, several friends, friends of friends, came back the phone reports, non stop.

CNN, a fledgling network ridiculed as Chicken Noodle Network, at the time everyone said wouldn't fly, confirmed what we were hearing.

There were Imelda Marcos and a young Gringo Honasan running over to Camp Crame from Aguinaldo, where it would be more conducive to making a last stand, CNN said. That did not sound too reassuring. There was the crowd—a huge mass of humanity—pouring to let them through. We assumed the crowd for humble reasons.

On the second or third day of the uprising, we went to Cheks Bale, a local Filipino restaurant, where we met up with other Ninoy-to-cory groupies for our evening's exchange stories about what was happening back home, and on Philippine-bred.

The following day, CNN showed Marcos succumbing a sputtering. We who was strongly lobbying to flee the turnscoats, and ultimately the people on Edsa who had become their human shields.

Suddenly the transmission went from obviously subsequent, and the thought that Marcos may have given in to 'is 'ad had us on edge for a while.

Dancing in streets

When the coverage resumed, CNN showed the people dancing in the streets and then in Malacañang where the hall-eaten assembled eggs and cavalier the cameras kept focusing on were like the final music heaped on the Filipino people by the Marcoses before they finally fled to Hawaii.

There there was Ramos hanging in the air, not once or twice, but enough times to leave him panting, and there was Enrile, who had spent much of martial law by Marcos's side, appearing to not quite know what to do with himself.

And there was Cory, the new president, there were Marcos and party landing in Hawaii and being welcomed like tourists with the obligatory leis by the state governor and his wife.

It was finally over— I'd scare of emotions rule that had brought the country to the streets with the fear of the RAM-Intemational Brand of Pancakes) that night with some friends to celebrate.

In the restaurant the waitress asked if we were Filipinos. The daughter of one friend, who was born in the Philippines, said no, her two daughters were born in New York in 1969-in-1970 and was all of three and a half, quickly said "Yes." We were so proud of them.

'You did great'

"You people great," the waitress said. The next day, at work, Ninoy's widow, a friend and ran random, congratulated me at work—for what I didn't know; I was thousands of miles away—but it felt good just the same. "Way to go, Bill," they said, flashing their thumbs.

Other Filipino friends, and Pinoys in accounts to PR and newspapers, called or sent congratulatory messages and other public places and being congratulated as soon it became apparent they were Filipinos.

But, it felt good to be a Filipino then, even in America.

What happened?

As a postscript, a few years later, when the news broke that Marcos's cold, our families and their children had been allowed back in the Philippines, there came Ninoy's line: "What happened, Bill?" "I could only shrug.

Then when Edsa II happened, Cheks and I made sure we were there with Bess, Gabriel, our siblings, nephews and nieces. And we didn't leave until Joseph Estrada fell.

Still, there are decades I have missed this time of year, Edsa II could never compare with Edsa I.

That is why, to my utter regret, and in the most subordinated is all, "Sorry I missed the revolution, Ninoy."

Project Editor
Fernando de Morais
Editors
Lolly Jimenez-Ringuenez
Alfie Pascual
Lourdes Medrano
Frisaire Gonzalez
Fidan Balbastro
Miguel Lorenz
Designers
Lynn Villaflor
Marvin Rubio
Evan Sandoz

We cried shamelessly

By Albert E. Acuña

I WAS A JUNIOR BANK OFficer for a local commercial bank assigned as the Greenhills area during the Edsa revolution.

The bank holidays gave us so much time to do at Edsa—but a photo or just a walk around with staff, friends, relatives and bank clients. We coordinated our activities daily and at most times slept in the lobby of the bank if we were too tired.

We always carried with us our customer radios, some food stuff and all things to relieve to Edsa. We followed celebrities walking from Edsa Greenhills to Crame up to Cubao.

We allowed ourselves as volunteers to serve and the nourishment and prayed with them.

One time, we found up behind a long thanksgiving people in the middle of Edsa and realized we had to shell out coins and for a chance to sing the prayers of Pentheaus and Sinakla Marcos.

Who would say that during that time, a revolution would turn into partying, concerts and socializing and getting to know a lot of people?

We were truly ecstatic to hear that Marcos had left the country and cried shamelessly over our heroic deed.

Last-ditch effort to mobilize

Pamanggas 41
pursuing Abakabayan (Bayan) managed to mobilize its forces along Espeña in Sampaloc, Manila.

At about this time, barricades had been set up on Espeña from the University of Santo Tomas up to 61 de la Fuente. Several passenger buses whose labor unions belonged to Bayan were also used to barricade the intersection of Dos Puebos and Espeña.

It was also during this time that Bayan and KMU announced a nationwide strike the following day to force Marcos out.

I have learned that the strike was aimed at retaking the initiative of bringing the masses by the Sadhan (which, in turn, was led by the Communist Party of the Philippines). This was obviously lost when the left failed to join Edsa as a result of the flawed decision by the higher-ups to support the Dos 7-snap elections.

I was among those who joined the Sadhan-led mobilizations in Espeña since I was a member of one of the numerous church-based initiatives. I was only 18 years old and had just left the El-CM seminary in Baguio City.

Glaring absence

The absence of Sadhan groups in Edsa was very glaring since everybody knew that it chose to boycott the snap elections. I even remembered a group of red banners waving nowhere affiliated with KMU marching around Edsa but were asked to snap by the rally leaders who warned us to be social democrats—the archenemies of Sadhan.

Only the Sadhan-led anti-election front group Tanggol Bayan/ata (Tapat) was able to bring its banner to front of a gasoline station because its leader was a cut. Ito Mercy Guerrero who was very visible in documenting some of the violations of the Marcos regime.

Later, CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison would also point to the presence of Tapat in Edsa as proof that the Sin-Enrile wave was absent in Edsa.

On Espeña, it was late in the afternoon that Bayan, KMU and its other affiliate groups were finally deployed. The march-to-mobilization, only to be blocked by soldiers still loyal to Marcos on 23 Lacson.

Malacañang takeover

The Bayan group had planned to hold a vigil here similar to Edsa—holding their rallies there. When we finally deployed, the left would be the first to set foot and eventually "take over" Malacañang.

Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos's statement over ETV 4 and Radyo Bandido after the Marcos exit left many Bayan leaders shaken down. Ramos was granted according his exit. Many of us felt that the "transmission" to an Edsa I was in the future grounds.

Upon hearing Ramos' statement, Bayan leader Leon Alejandro announced that our group would not proceed to Malacañang and instead march back to Espeña. It was then suspected that a non-violent takeover is prepared to further isolate Bayan-KMU.

From Espeña, the religious sector to which our group belonged proceeded to E. Rodriguez going to Mt. Carmel Church in Broadway. Unlike the people around us rejoicing because of the news that Marcos had left, we were witness to the farce of some of our fellow church activists, as if someone had died.

I even heard some crying and blaming the boycott policy as the reason why the Left, specifically the Communist Party failed to lead the masses in such a historic moment.

Bitter debate

A debate between two known respectable cadres of the underground Christians, for National Liberation even erupted during an impromptu discussion but was stopped after a few minutes when we realized it was futile.

One of the cadres eventually was declared a religious missionary priest while the other would later be arrested by intelligence operatives along with his wife in 1991 on suspicion of being underground Communist CDE.

The bitter conflict in the national democratic movement over the boycott error resulting in the failure to foresee an Edsa-type uprising would eventually lead to a split in the CPP and within the Sadhan movement right years later.

THE PEOPLE

'We closed our eyes to soldiers beating us'

By Jaime Reyes

(The writer, a college student then, is now a fund-raising manager.)

AS EARLY AS 3 A.M. ON DAY FOUR, WE HEARD ABOUT A company of soldiers coming from the Libis area who would try to secure Gate 1 of Camp Aguinaldo. We made preparations to resist them.

At 6 a.m. three groups, myself included, went to the corner of 20th Avenue and Santolan.

There, we saw amid the smoke of tear gas canisters soldiers overpowering packets of civilians as they pushed toward Camp Aguinaldo. The soldiers stopped when they saw us.

We stared at each other for a few seconds, then I heard our leader shout "Upo-(Sit it)!" We all sat down.

The soldiers started beating their shields with their truncheons, creating a very intimidating noise.

I remember I closed my eyes and prayed that the noise would stop. It did not. It even became louder. When I opened my eyes, the soldiers were just five feet away from us.

I felt a tugging at my right arm. My companion was trying to break free of our linked arm formation. My mind went blank. I was seeing things in slow motion. I remember pulling my companion back and shouting at him to close his eyes.

I did the same and felt a shield being shoved at my face, pushing me until I fell down. I felt boots kicking me in my legs. Blindly, I got back on my feet again, then I felt a truncheon hit me on my left shoulder.

I then saw our line had been broken as soldiers pushed us.

We slowly and painfully moved back to Gate 3.

A car—if I'm not mistaken a Honda—was parked horizontally in front of the spot where we were positioned earlier. We then took thick nylon ropes and tied them on cars whereby posts to serve as additional barriers.

Before we knew it, there were soldiers behind us. It seemed another company of soldiers were all the way around us and struck behind through Murphy sentries on 15th Avenue.

Again, we were broken out. I rolled at the soldiers not to strike the women and used my body to protect one. I don't even remember getting hit anymore. I started to drag this poor woman to the side and told her to get out of the place.

We started to run toward Edsa. Some people met us and brought us to a makeshift medical facility. My elder even notice it but we were suffering from tear gas inhalation.

I had a cut on my hand and was bleeding. My hand was swollen as well as the left side of my face. My companion was limping from countless blows and sore coughing.

I was told that negotiators had gone in talk to the officers. And then it was over. And like that. After 20 minutes of fending off the soldiers, it was peaceful and quiet again.

Why Left was left behind: Red leaders surprised, stuck to Maoist strategy

Front page A-1

For Alex Padilla, then secretary general (as known) of the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Peace and Democracy, the Left was left behind. "Definitely," he said.

He said the Left led the struggle against Marcos and the US for the longest time. "It always took the initiative. The politicians would go to the Left if they wanted some mass support.

Maoist strategy

"But the strategy of the Left has changed from the Marcos years. From the time of Aquino. It always thought that urban-centered insurrection—was always elitist and should not be supported," he said.

Padilla said the Left was not able to adapt to the modern thinking that "you have to get power where the power was, which is in the cities and the urban areas."

Lower-ranks were left to their own devices in a fast-changing situation that was Edsa.

Without a go-signal from the party secretary-general, key members of the Left formed Pyme (Pagkakaisa), which had sought a broad alliance against the "US-Marcos regime," called on a multisectoral organization to support the people at Edsa.

A senior UP] member at the time recalled that he was on a jeep when he heard on the radio Juan Ponce Enrile announcing his breakaway from Marcos.

"When I radioed home, I got so many calls... asking the UPC what was happening. (said) 'Watch the exit (of Marcos). That night we united the universities. There were calls that we should go to Camp Crame, the former UPC member, who doesn't want to be named because of his work with a nongovernment organization.

Satur, the party secretary general (since over). He said "the chairman of mukaymay (could not be contacted), decided."

"We said, 'If the leadership will not act, the core of the UPC will. So the next day for the first time, we went to the house of organizational headquarters, supporting Cory's candidacy. Our direction was for it to go to Enrile," Roger said.

Supporting Enrile? Satur, then the vice-chief of staff of the armed forces, and Enrile, then Marcos's defense minister, did not come easy for many activists.

"Why would we support them? Let them fight each other. They are our enemies," said Satur. Then there was the voice of the Popular Struggle Commission of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), which borrowed the mass-based, dental election.

Her rank was to coordinate mobilizations like bringing people against the regime, while the political opposition was calling for civil disobedience.

Bayan believed that Marcos would not give way to Aquino. "Then the US would still support Marcos. It was like a religion isn't it? Dogmatically we held on to that analysis," Nemenzo said.

Anathema

He said supporting the military at the time was anathema to Bayan. "If we unseat another Cory when more the military? What will we do as Edsa?" said Nemenzo, who was then detained and tortured during the early days of martial law.

She changed her mind above Edsa when she saw the multitudes.

"We were really disheartened. We were so fatigue, so tuko-a pook, it was beautiful, amazing. People were falling down. Of course, there's danger in every crowd, but various, but at that moment they were saying down big trees to block the tanks. We went around and saw that Edsa was full of people," she said.

"Even my mother came. It was the most tumultuous thing for them to defend the military. They were telling us, 'why don't you give them votes?'" said Rondaa, now a member of the House of Representatives.

THEY WERE THERE even without sign signal from their party executive committee.

Alex Padilla, now an undersecretary at the Department of Health, said he would go to Edsa to observe and to hold meetings.

"Everything was moving fast. We had to adapt. This was something new to us," he said. "We thought that it was going to be a long, arduous struggle from the countryside."

He did not go to Edsa to support Marcos and Enrile whose split with Ramos he viewed with suspicion.

Kilusan

"I was an unsure debtor(sic)," he said. Five years later, he began to realize the significance of the event.

"Suddenly, I felt I was partly responsible for this. It was the culmination of all your work in removing Marcos," said Padilla.

"Even my parents who were in that crisis 70 plus were also there because, you know Filipinos, ... In times of trouble, [both of them] his siblings also came... There was no feeling that they were in danger. Or even if there was, we couldn't care. I would not have died for Enrile or Ramos. I was in the periphery anyway, but I wanted to be there as a part of history," he said.

While officials of other organizations of the Left went to Edsa out of curiosity, leaders of the Kilusang Mayo Uno decided to a major powered in the highway.

The KMU national council was crafting a program when Jaime Cardinal Sin appealed to the people to go to Edsa. Right then and there, the council heeded the prelate's call, said Crispin Beltran, then KMU vice chair.

Spark

"As if a spark was triggered. Let's do away with this meeting and proceed to Edsa," Beltran said of how the council came to the decision. "At the same way, the workers came in droves."

With red banners, more than 30,000 KMU members and supporters marched toward Edsa on Feb. 22, said Beltran, now a member of the House of Representatives.

"The KMU decision to join Edsa [on the first day] was an independent decision," he said. But the group consulted its allies later.

Beltran said Bayan, an umbrella organization to which the KMU belongs, later affirmed the KMU decision. "Most of the organizations under Bayan joined," he said.

The Sanctus, politicians and soldiers headed were their guns to us," Beltran said. "They surrendered their weapons and joined the people."

The sea of people at Edsa morphed with the surging of former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, then Bayan chair, prompted other Bayan officials to finally throw their support behind Ramos.

Tañada and Bayan president Jose Ma. Sison paid a call on Ramos, who was holed up in Camp Crame.

"We're together this time," Ramos said, quoting what Ramos had told Tañada. Cory would later appointed to Ramos cabinet in the presence of US military bases in the country.

Other forces of the Left responded to Sin's appeal.

Most organized

On the night Sin made the call over Radio Veritas, the religious sector had all in Edsa. "The most organized group was the Christians for National Liberation (CNL). Duon sana, it made the direction—the Church forces actually," Roger said.

"The group of seminarians who blocked the Marines on the early morn ing after Sin's appeal was under the command of the CNL."

He said the Health group sent antilewisite to Edsa and many activists went on their own, until the understanding that they would link up with the others.

By Jose Maria Sison's reckoning, Bayan forces accounted for a fifth of the people at Edsa.

"[They] constituted the hard core of the masses [at least 20 percent of the entire masses] on Edsa at the peak," said Sison, founding chair of the CPP who was then a political detainee.

Sison, now based in the Netherlands and chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, said Bayan was decisive in rallying its organized masses immediately in the front of Imelda Cobaz upon the call of Agapito "Butz" Aquino for help.

Sison also noted that 500 members of Bayan Quezon City accompanied Col. Eustaquio Santiago to capture the TV Channel 4 compound.

Main force at Mendiola

Although they were just part of the multitudes at Edsa, the people led by members and supporters of Bayan constituted the main force at Mendiola Bridge, a scene decisive than Malacañang.

Bayan chapters in Manila, Makati and Quezon City and KMU marched on Mendiola, presenting themselves as a "counterforce."

Since said the mobilization in Mendiola in was pivotal in driving Marcos out of the Palace.

"We would not unleash the masses led by the progressive religious of CNL, the KMU and UPI (League of Filipino Students) who were stationed on Mendiola and then on the gates of the presidential palace after they valiantly did away with the barricades.

"It drove that unmobilized at Edsa were decisive in protecting the failed coup leaders, rallying the biggest mass of demonstrators and encouraging the military or withdraw support from Marcos, those that assembled in front of the Palace were decisive in compelling Marcos to flee after a RAM planned helicopter dropped grenades on the Palace roof and the US announced that it would withdraw military support from Marcos should he not have to stay in power," Sison said.

Momentum destroyed

Beltran was among the many who were able to enter Malacañang. "It was in disarray. We destroyed the memories of Marcos."

Later, Bayan asked us to support Malacañang. Sen. Marcos, but Malacañang," Beltran said. "Imagine, the armed in Malacañang almost fell into our hands."

Bayan and current leaders of the Left are divided over the view that the Left was left behind at Edsa.

"The assessment that the CPP leadership was left behind is correct. But the cadres, the organizations were all over the place," Roger said.

He said the leadership did not anticipate the events and could not respond immediately.

Caught flatfooted

Like the national leadership of the CPP (the party's Manila-Rizal regional committee) was caught flatfooted. "For all its talk of insurrection, it did not know how to respond. Its ABB (Alex Boncayao Brigade) urban partisan unit) lay idle," Roger said.

"But after it was made clear that the people want he supported, MB sent a contingent to Edsa, and conducted raids on police stations in Malabon and Tondo," he said.

Ricardo Reyes, a former member of the CPP Political Bureau, gave a qualified answer.

Major force

"Yes" [it was left behind]. If we think of Edsa as the result of that phase from the snap election to the four-day revolt. But 'No,' if we think of Edsa as the culmination of the anti-dictatorship struggle. The Left led by the CPP/NPA [the ousted party and army at that time] was a major force galvanizing the people's struggle against the Marcos dictatorship from the very day martial law was imposed in September 1972 to its ouster in 1986," Reyes said.

He said this clarification must be made to unravel the myth, which the elite have successfully wrapped around Edsa I to justify elite dominance and downgrade the contribution of mass-based movements.

Declaring that the Left was left out at Edsa amounts to seeing what happened in a narrow ideological perspective, according to Reyes.

"It's part of the position thrown at the Left that was magnified by Fighting camps, which aimed to monopolize power," he said.

Beltran said the KMU was not only at Edsa but also in other parts of the country, engaging a protest at strike in support of the claim to victory of Cory Aquino.

He said the general strike paralyzed transportation in Rizal, Cebu, Mindanao and Central Luzon. "We were in 14 of the 17 regions except Iloilo, Zamboanga and some parts of Mindanao," he said.

Uprising outside Manila

Like Beltran and the others, Sison said the people's uprising outside Metro Manila contributed to the downfall of Marcos.

"Bayan had the most organized masses taking up arms other than the military. In worship and assembling the pro-Marcos local officials to as many provincial capitals, cities and key municipalities. Bayan Angeles City stepped up its tracks the tank armory of General Mendoza. Gen. Renato de Villa got his command and personnel to abandon with Bayan. Hard to make no sense points to Marcos that Edsa had a deep to serve in the provinces," Sison said.

He also recognized the role other forces played in toppling the Marcos dictatorship.

"What was the most decisive force in other were the most decisive forces in the overthrow of Marcos? I would point to the broad masses of the people that showed up at Edsa and before the presidential palace. But Edsa is not single out any of the organized forces as the most decisive, because they all contributed. It was a synthesis of various forces that overthrew the Marcos regime. Various forces were decisive in their respective ways," he said.

Decisive

"The legal and underground Left were the most consistent and decisive force in defeating the most brutal and most organized manner that served as hard core of the brutal masses at Edsa and elsewhere, according to Sison.

"But certainly the most decisive in consummating Marcos was the ruling class's withdrawal of support to him, forcing the ruling system issues were the US, the Catholic hierarchy, the business groups, Aquino and her followers and those high Marcos bureaucrats and military officers who turned against Marcos," he said.

At Edsa, the left did not lead the people, it opened up to be as a component of the struggle against Marcos for the most part of his dictatorial rule, but it was a significant part of the uprising. Leaving it to be at Edsa is a natural that part of Philippine history.

(Rondaa and "Roger" were interviewed by Juan F. Escalante Jr. ; Padilla by Jamie Aurora, and Beltran by Alfredo Garcellano and Cyrill Almendrass. Reyes and Sison submitted written answers.)

EDSA I: Bayan forces accounted for a fifth of people at Edsa.

EDSA I: If we could not accept Cory, what more the AFP?

BELTRAN: Cardinal Sin's call was a trigger to go to Edsa.

EDSA I 20

THE PEOPLE

I wrote my last will and testament

By Ma. Gracia de Vaux Ribeza-Plaza

WHEN WE HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LATE Cardinal Sin on the radio asking the faithful to go to Edsa, I personally felt that God was drafting us to fight evil.

But it caused me a great moral challenge. It was not easy for me to bring all my four children there. It could turn bloody.

So I wrote my last will and testament. I am a lawyer and I wanted my wishes for my three older children in case my husband and my youngest succumb in the battlefield of Edsa.

My husband and I decided to bring the youngest whom we feel would be most vulnerable if left behind.

But the three others we left to our house help, Evelyn.

I prepared as many sandwiches as I could for distribution. I instructed Evelyn and my three eldest children—Joey, Thomas and Mai—to always stay close to one another, pray the rosary and never the smile on, all the time even while they are praying.

That moment of goodbye was for me a scary and solemn one.

When my husband, Marlon and I finally arrived in Edsa, my fears vanished.

There was a mood of celebration. The big throng of people were marching jubilantly from all directions.

Marlon zoomed to climb a parked taxi. We had placed him atop ours. As I watched him preening, I prayed, "Lord, save our nation for our children."

Despite those intermittent surges of fear, I felt safe and calm. I felt united with the multitudes who have responded to the call of God and country.

THE HIGHWAY OF OUR AFFECTION before the invasion of the Spoxer and the MIT.

A little story with a bang

By Manuel S. Quiambao

(The writer is assistant landlaw of Ana Maid Interiorior)

FIRST THERE WAS A LOUD FIRE-phonics that seemed to have come from the area of Camp Crame. This was before 6 a.m. on Feb. 24, 1986. The upstairs tenant then had remained from a long night of vigil. It was startled, there was toward the Greenhills Shopping Center.

There were threats that the heated ground attack had commenced and that Marcos' soldiers were starting to bombard the place.

Every time I looked back on that day, I still wonder why no mention has been made in any of the accounts of the revolution about that explosion.

Immediately after hearing the loud bang, I instinctively grasped for my son, Manny Jr. To my horror, he was not there. I felt my knees melt with him. My son woke up early that morning and begged me to bring him to Edsa. He was 10 years old, and a proud Aetasan.

I ran, scanning the crowd and shouting the name of my son. I was fearful that he would be crushed in the stampede. I was telling myself, "My God, he is just 10 years old."

I was also afraid that shooting would erupt.

After a while, the running stopped and people slowly drifted back.

But I continued to search, alternately running and walking, and all the time shouting the name of my son. He was nowhere in sight. I stopped to catch my breath. I felt some chest pains. I thought I was going to die.

At the corner of Annapolis and Edsa I saw helicopters. "This is it," said an old man. My fear trebled. I shouted again for my son.

"Papa," somebody called. It was my son with some teenagers. He was pointing to the helicopters. I hurried to get him. I felt as if him for a mad dash back to Annapolis Street.

But as we crossed the avenue, we were stopped on our tracks by the shooting. The helicopters headed inside the camp, instead of firing their guns. The crowd was ecstatic. "Kakampi, kakampi natin!" people said. My son was jumping for joy. I was also jumping.

Have we learned anything?

By Jose Miguel Gomez

(The author was a high school teacher at the Ateneo at the time)

WITH MY CAR LOADED WITH provisions for people at the barricades, I drove out again to Edsa on the fourth day of the uprising. The consternation on Gladys Bautista was using a call for people to go to the television stations to help warn communities the broadcast facilities.

After smashing between blocked roads and barricades, I managed to push to the vicinity of the Channel 9 broadcasting tower in Quezon City. It was impossible to get close to Channel 9 where People Power was mustered to prevent the loyalist forces from retaking the network.

Loyalist soldiers held the Channel 9 building and, across the rebels lay siege to the compound, and the grounds swirled around beyond the barricades.

After some time, an Air Force helicopter flew in from the west. It slowly circled the tower, then suddenly pooled off when one of the soldiers positioned high up in the tower let off seven rounds at the aircraft.

As the chopper approached the tower again, more small arms fire was launched from the tower, and then suddenly the helicopter let out a rapid series of hammering sounds. My blood chilled when I realized that they were shooting at the tower with an M2 Browning .50 cal. machine gun, a weapon used for shooting down an aircraft and blasting holes through armor. Those soldiers in the tower didn't stand a chance! For the first time in my life, I watched men die at the hands of their comrades!

Soon, things quieted down again, and a cessation of hostilities was eventually agreed upon.

I saw Cory at POEA

By Jesse Bagtas Jr.

WE WERE IN A MEETING in Manila debating whether to follow Cory's request to leave for Edsa. Miguel was there. After much discussion, because it was an issue of national importance, we decided that we loved our country more than Jose Miguel beer and ordered fresh brew instead.

We took a cab to go home and were told by the driver about Cardinal Sin's plea for people to go to Edsa to protect Enrile and Ramos. But, sad to say, our fears got the better of us.

On Monday, we finally decided to go to Edsa. It has been up to a certain point of Edsa and we had to walk in the center of Ortigas Avenue, where we saw sandbags and barricades. A huge crowd was there in a festive mood.

Early in the afternoon, Cory's group came. It was a brief appearance only at the POEA building, where she prayed the "Our Father"—"The Lord's Prayer"—with those present at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenues.

In the evening, while speaking to media at the phone call at the Tropical Hut grocery, somebody shouted that tanks were coming. I stood still, frozen. I was already looking for a place to hide when—to my pleasure—we saw a group of women, including nuns, marching to defend the barricades with their bodies!

Post-mortem, for us men, it was a false alarm. That single experience, however, was quite a revelation. Pilipinas never lie more courageous than the men!

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

TOUGH CHIP: Robert Paredes in no. 9

Pagunsan grabs TCC lead

Freshman pro's 71 best in blustery winds; Miñoza makes cut

By Jane Navarro

CANLUBANG—BLUSTERY winds and testy pin placements proved too tough a combination for the field to handle yesterday as Juvic Pagunsan sneaked in front and Frankie Miñoza barely made the cut.

Pagunsan struggled to another 1-over par 71, but his 1-52 total was enough to give the Southeast Asian Games champion a one-shot lead over fellow rookie pro Antonio Hortelano and overnight leader Raoul Bravo halfway through The Country Club Invitational at the TCC course here.

Tournament favorite Miñoza and defending champion Jerome Bobanovic barely made it to the money round at 151, the 36-hole cut mark following rounds of 78 and 73, respectively.

"The wind was strong enough to keep you out of your usual game but the pin placements made it even more difficult," said Pagunsan, who won two SEAG golds at the 7,294-yard course last year.

"Fortune," said Miñoza, an Asian Tour veteran and winner of six titles in the lucrative Japan circuit, after completing six bogey-ridden holes for rates of 38-38.

Pagunsan gained shots four birdies and five bogeys, including three on the last eight holes, for totals of 34-37.

Manalo carded rates of 36-37 to finish 1hr-151 for second to the 54-million tournament that offers P1.2 million to the champion.

"I shouldn't have missed those cuts," said the 27-year-old Pagunsan, a Filipino, referring to his misfortunes on Nos. 3, 12 and 14 which he all three parred.

Pagunsan could have mustered par but he fouled his 1-iron approach from 175 yards on the water.

And like the rest of the 36-man field that included three amateurs, pin placements bedeviled John Cotoa, who could do no better than a 77-for a 244 aggregate.

"Since this is run-off day, we made the pin placements a bit tougher for the pros," said TCC general manager Mike Cua.

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Alvarez completes Eagles' reunion

THE MOST-AWAITED ATENEO REUNION AT Red Bull finally came to fruition.

Rich Alvarez, last season's rookie of the year, has returned to teammates from the Blue Eagles' 2002 champion squad after Alaska dealt him to Red Bull in exchange for the Bulls' 2004 and 2005 first-round picks.

Overflowing with pleasure at the much-forward spot, the 6am dropped the synapse to how it became the pioneers on The Coach's rotation, Alaska team manager Joaquí Trillo told the locations.

"We have problems on how to shrink the playing rotation on the court so what we did was let go of Mendoza and get more role players on board," said Trillo.

Besides the deal, also acquired Mo Bolomo after trading Brandon Cobbey to San Miguel for a move to strengthen the Alaska frontline.

Alvarez will again team up with former Eagles Rodney Villanueva, Larry Fonacier and Bonn Regala, who led Ateneo to the 2002 UAAP crown after a 23-year title drought. Jane Navarro

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Iloilo battles Negros; NCR-Cotabato tiff up

By Cedrif P. Tupas, Phil Visayas Bureau

NCR'S Al Bernosio controls a long cross against Iloilo.

BACOLOD, Negros—MICHAEL SUCCESSFUL AND TEAM Bacolod-Chua Iloilo rekindle their bitter rivalry today when they duel for a finals seat in the PFF National Men's Club Championship here.

Defending champion National Capital Region battles unbeaten Southern Cotabato, fresh off after the 3.30 p.m. encounter between the regional rivals in this football-loving town.

Negros coach Freddie Lazatin entered no words that he expects a repeat of Iloilo's 3-0 victory over the Negros in the finals.

"We would rather lose them in the semis," Lazatin said, stressing that his team has yet to play one-to-three despite posting a survey of its group matches. "It has a weaker lineup than NCR."

Iloilo, however, would be tougher than expected, coach Loren Bonavira told the lineman.

For one, the Ilonggos are expected to come out with guns as they possess offensive lineup in Pedi, 8-1, with Jun Magno, a product of the grassroots program of this town, coming up with the game-winner in the 19th minute.

"The loss toughened the team," the Iloilo coach said, adding that he is able to getting used to rising above schemes, too, citing their first game, where seven key players headed to Bulacan to represent the country in Cotabato Open.

One thing going for the Ilonggos is the overwhelming crowd support here that also carried them to a come-from-behind 3-2 win over Baguio Wednesday.

The game also pits brothers Jiggy and Jerard Yeung on opposite sides.

Jiggy, the younger of the two brothers, had been anchoring the fourth defense in the elimination, while Jerard plays midfield.

Negros is actually the last team to have won the nation-al title, before NCR claimed back-to-back crowns in Mindanao and Cagayan de Oro City, respectively.

Regarded as the tournament's scare-na package, Southeast Cotabato posted two wins in the eliminations, before losing to Davao City in game to Baguio, while NCR campaigned to an impressive 4-1 win over Baguio and subsequently Bagui, 10-0.

13-pt swing catapults S'woods back in front

By Husong R. Castillo

TONLE'S Aaron Hsieh out of the bunker after 6.

DARAO CITY—MANILA SOUTHWOODS TRAVELS IN CONGENIAL Kinnex heart to regain the lead from Cordoburg and give itself a shot at repeating as champions for the first time in the Philippines that have been back-to-back championships here.

Teodin Asiatic opened with a bo-gey but gained down eight birdies the rest of way for a four under 68 worth 40 points at Dalos Verdes. That boosted Southwood to a 147 total and a three-round 420 aggregate—two points up on overnight leader Cordoburg.

Tom Sakajima signed for a 71, worth 37 points and Mike Alejandro and Hiroyuki Hikiko accounted for 36 each as Southwoods roared on an 11-point deficit to take the driver's seat heading into the final round today at Apo Golf and Country Club.

Cordoburg drew 36 points from former RP-Amazone rider Jose Bonus and a 16-over-par 88 Tuesday, but rookie Joseph Labajo and veteran Abe Bonal couldn't do no better than a 38 each as the Sugar Bowlers slipped to 12th for the day and a 40.26 total. Bonus' Tennessean failed to count for the second straight day with a 24.

"I still think everything is set according to plan," Southwoods skipper Thirdy Ignacio said. "Hopefully, we will do well tomorrow to Apo. We already had our bad day there."

Southwoods lost a 1-14 point lead at the 7,070-yard Apo in the second round Wednesday to trail Kinnex by 11 as the start of yesterday's round at Dalos Verdes.

Cordoburg, however, enjoys a chilled edge in local knowledge—the core of its final-day lineup started their careers at the rough Apo course.

"We finished badly, but we're still very much in it," said skipper Jorge Yulo, whose Sugar Bowlers averaged seventy-points on the four-tour finishes.

Del Monte, the 2004 winners of its home course in Bukidnon, posted a second straight 129 for 264 and all but booted out of the title chase.

Sidney Arevalo led Del Monte with 36 points to go with the 32s of John Mikkers and Jett Pitts, who carded a flawless 30. Wednesday and the 30-of skipper Ryong Ahn.

Arellanowski will play 10th pair members Boots Thelam, Richard Hibe, Jong Lopez and Gene Bolivar, together with Clemente Sr. is today.

This was the same squad that took a terrible beating on Thursday from Cordoburg rookies Joel Abalo and Mark Orlando and Jay Bonus and Bauer Sampora. Bonal takes over from Mario Labajo.

Cebu Country Club entered the Sunshine division lead from Mark Wack after a solid 126 built around the 32 of veteran Rommulo Garcia at Apo Golf.

Mark Ty chipped in with 32, but first accounted for 33 and Jojo Borngen had 29 for Cebu, which had a 248 total, five up on Mark Wack, which carded a measly 107.

Pelon Abalos stayed on top of the Sportsmen division despite a 97 to 10-point lead dropped down to three by Orchard, which shot 108 for a 304 total.

Cordoburg is poised to the top of the Friendship division, shooting a day four 98, also at Dalos Verdes, for a 208 aggregate and a nine-point edge over Camp Evangelista INC. Two-day leader Stamford struggled with a 79 and dropped to fourth, one points behind third placers Sta. Barbara's 203.

'The show will go on'

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cerbi

I CAN IMAGINE PO-ET SOLAS COG Otto Clanlong must have thought of me when I texted him yesterday morning to follow up on the wrestling taken requested by a media bigwig.

In his request, I'm surprised he even rolled immediately in response to the text message. Under the prevailing situation, it seemed as insignificant, although I could assess of the prevailing situation at the time.

The signal was not too good, so I couldn't make out exactly what Otto was saying. But I hear the words "state of emergency" I could not sure.

Anyway, Otto promised to call later. He had just returned from a trip to the United States where he watched the three Filipino-American fighters in Las Vegas and the MGA. All three of them won, which is how I found out. But the hands fell, considering that the tenth-assisted WWE Raw! UFC was scheduled ONE 24 and 25.

I wasn't surprised then that he failed to get in touch to advise me of the latter, which is why I decided to text him.

* * *

And a few minutes after my brief talk with Peter on the cellphone, I received the television show. Although sent to the kind of scenario, I did not realize the gravity of the situation. After all, the President had declared a national state of emergency.

I knew that chaos had been engendered because of the political coup d'etat, but that happens all the time. What else is new?

But I didn't know about the attempted coup at dawn which was aborted by government forces. Or I knew it happened. Strong of impassioned rallyists that had gathered at Luka.

Until I switched on the boob tube.

Peter must think I was absolutely clueless, or else my senses were unplanned. Talking about wrestling tickets when Bonavanti could be hunt or die in a riot or another stampede.

The thought suddenly crossed my mind: Boxing fans for Entertainment must be to a major quandary right at that moment. I remember several years ago when an NBA television flew to Manila for an exhibition game and was confronted with a similar precarious situation.

The NBA surgery got on board they decided to fly back home.

Needless to say, the game (games?) was canceled. Consequently, the promoter lost a lot of money.

The coup never materialized.

* * *

At the time Otto called, I knew he was at the Cinema Plaza Hotel and was expecting to meet a friend. I had also threatened to pull out of their entertainment like the NBA cagers did years ago? But Peter trying to convince them to stand by their entertainment?

I chickened at the consequences should the show be canceled. Was it unforeseen circumstances," aside from thousands of Pinoy wrestling fans being disappointed, a cancellation would cost hefty millions of dollars since they will have to reimburse payment for the tickets which were sold out from days to ending of the big event.

* * *

All fears were allayed when Peter sent a text message early yesterday afternoon.

"The show will go on," he declared. I wondered if that decision was arrived at after a long, strained, heated exchange of words and crossed impasses.

Peter showed no signs when I talked to him later. The outsiders were never scared like the NBA cagers, he means.

"Nevertheless we will provide them with maximum security and protection," he said.

The tickets—now sure as diamonds because they sold like hotcakes—were delivered at my doorstep five days before. Those were for the Feb. 25 show, of course.

Battle of champs for students crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

REUNING EAAP CHAMPION FAR EASTERN University and NCAA title Letran downed their respective two ownership and fought a title showdown for the seniors crown of the Shakey's Collegiate Basketball Championships at the Rizal Coliseum.

FEU unleashed its might against Philippine Christian U, 63-53, while Letran rallied from a sluggish first half to beat University of Visayas, 77-68. The venues collide today at 3 p.m.

Ring Tumanon Aravind Santos finally showed up but could only score six points in a supporting role to Jonas Villanueva who topscored with 20 points. Jeffrey Chan added 12.

Earlier, John Abel Real and Aaron Aban led the Knights' second half attack to thwart the Lancers, the only area Letran seem to lead for the Final Four.

The duel between the two champions should draw the attention of basketball fans, according to Moving Marinduc, president of the organizing Philippine Basketball Federation.

At high-school play, PCAA champion San Sebastian blasted UAAP titlist La Salle-Zobel, 85-72, and NCAA runner-up Jose Rizal broke Ateneo, 87-52, to arrange a title duels at 1:30 p.m.

San Sebastian skilful Jon Soria disposed of Philippine Christian University, 97-51.

Olympics

LETRAN 77—Villanueva 20, Chan 12, Real 8, Aban 10, Ibanez 6, Santos 5, Lucero 5, Arao 5, Reyes 5, Lindo 0.

FEU 63—Arrogante 16, Ramos 13, Dela Vega 10, Bautista 7, Rodriguez 7, Malapad 5, Abad 2, Perez 0.

HT—Arrogante 16, Ramos 13, Dela Vega 10, Bautista 7, Rodriguez 7, Malapad 5, Abad 2, Perez 0.

SPORTSWATCH

CSI criterium hits road in Marikina

CLOSE TO 200 RIDERS BATTLE FOR HONORS AND WINNING POINTS IN the second leg of the Philippine Cycling Sports Federation (PCS) Criterium Race today at the Marikina Heights Loyola Subdivision. Action is expected to heat up in the men's elite and under-23 class featuring members of the Vegan Cycling Team that saw action in the recent Langkawi Tour. Wayn Mo. Lourdes Fernandez and Vivi Marie Montano are the lone entries in the women's division. The PCS will at this to Yeoha Brand and extend it each class of the event separately. Tres Sales and Management Corp. The 4.5-mile circuit is backed by Pagcor, PCSO, Ambulo Thrift Question Marketing, Rexlot, Air21, Philsmile, Philsports and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Perfect 7-of-7 for Go's Firefly 13RM

PRE-LAW GOES STRAIGHT CONNECTION'S RAFFY ALLI TO SEVEN-MARKERS TO rule the SEABOA 7-A-Side Series at the Rodeo Mega football recently. Starting center with 3 points each were Firefly 14 of Carlos Sy, Red Cloak 8 of Iggy Arroyo and Jeffie Palmares, and Red Cloak 06 Iggy Arroyo went onto with Boy Bonifacio. Reading Scorers were Magic Wings Generation of Tommy Yuvo, Gonzalo Mapualan JC of Joe Fernando, Lucky Tiki Firefly Bicentennial of Nic de Guzman, Red Cloak 06 Iggy Arroyo and Jeffie Palmares. Against 06 Batch of Jerry Ramos, Jade Resort of Manuel Santos, 2000 division's Republic of Iloilo Tau, and Firefly 1994 100.

Las Piñas derby finals kick off today

UPCOMING COCKFIGHTS AND RESULTS ON TAKE TODAY'S FINAL TODAY IN THE Cockpit of the "Sabungan Festival." A cock derby starting at 9 a.m. today at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Out of 60 entries, 48 qualified for today's finals headed by former Senator Rene Saguisag's Bakal Boy Sanchez and the Mayors 6 Cock Derby on March 1. For inquiries, call 823-1080 or 874-3892.

60 matches spice up Makati cockfest

AT LEAST 60 MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN THE CONCRETE ARANETA COCK derby, a blue-ribbon cockfest in the Makati cockpit and sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ale, tonight at the Makati Coliseum. An cash pot of P100,000 will be at stake in this one-day derby headed by Makati sportsman Leon Chua. Lady Tan is P12,000 Chua said members of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines are also running a derby today. For inquiries, call 896-3686 or 896-5876.

PCAP screening set for stag series

THE MANILA GOLF CLUB AND CYNTHIA COCKPIT ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE PHILIPpines will choose contenders from March 15 to 16, in preparation for the PCAP Stag derby series in Hacienda Binalbagan where Jamie Tajon is the two-consecutive champ handling may call 8-7871 office at 0910-4498888 or 1090-5245 for appointment. Meanwhile, the PHILGOLF Cockpit Breeder Invade derby starts at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

CONTRACT FOR THE 5-YEAR MAINTENANCE OF MRT LINE 3 SYSTEM

Bid documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City during regular office hours from **March 9-10, 2008** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

Site inspection will be held on **March 14, 2008** at 10:00 a.m. at Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City.

For the purpose of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **MARCH 19, 2008** at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, Maintenance Building, LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City. On or before the date so mentioned pre-bid conference, the bidders must notify LRTA in writing of their intent to bid. Failure to notify LRTA of such intent shall mean outright disqualification from the bidding process.

The approved budget for the Contract is **Php 1,309,241,882.82** chargeable against LRTA Corporate Operating Budget.

Due to the nature of the requirements of the Contract, a two-stage bidding procedure shall be employed pursuant to Section 30 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act. Submission of Envelope 1, first stage, shall be on **15 April 2008** at 10:00 a.m. at Conference Room, Maintenance Building, LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City and Envelope 1 and 2, third stage, on **01 May 2008** at 10:00 a.m. at Conference Room, Maintenance Building, LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City, both addressed to:

The Chairman
Bureau Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC)
Light Rail Transit Authority
LRTA Compound, GF Admin. Bldg.
Aurora Blvd., Pasay City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Telefax No.: (632) 551-3949

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assigning any reason whatsoever, to waive any defect or annex the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to entertain only such bids established to be the most advantageous to the LRTA.

The Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTRIC POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BATELEC II AND [illegible] ENERGY CORPORATION, AND FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2008-[illegible]

MANUEL ELEC-TRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BATELEC II),
Applicant.
x---x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by Batangas Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BATELEC II) on December 28, 2007 of an application for approval of the electric power purchase agreement between BATELEC II and [illegible] Energy Corporation (Energy Corporation/ Wesmin), and prayer for provisional authority.

Said EPPA has a cumulative period of twenty (20) years, or co-terminous with an average of least up to 40,000 kW per Billing Year or 40,000 kW per Billing Year, whichever is greater, and up to 50MW Year 10 of the Cooperation Period. In every year the quantity of energy needed to be delivered shall be determined following the definition of "Billing Year" in Article 1 of the said EPPA, during the Capital Period of the Cooperation Period, and BATELEC may agree to increase the above quantities upon mutual consent.

Likewise, under Schedule 1 of the said EPPA, during the Capital Period, the Energy Fee is to be paid by BATELEC to the Energy Corporation at a fee to be paid by BATELEC to [illegible] for each Billing Month shall in all cases be equal to and never greater than the rates chargeable by National Power Corporation (NPC), as in effect from time to time pursuant to provisions of [illegible].

The Commission has set the application for hearing on March 17, 2008 (Monday) at ten-thirty in the afternoon (10:30 A.M.) at ERC Compound, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of the initial hearing. Said parties may submit their comments on the application and who shall have manifested in the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that [illegible] be granted to them in accordance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Commission. Any such comments or requests for participation by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such comments with copies of the applications and its supplements, if [illegible] any such comments and requests for participation shall be submitted to the Commission within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice and served on

Pistons, Mavs fan home win streaks

HUNTER HILLS, MICHIGAN—Rookie Rodney Stuckey scored 18 points and Chucky Atkins rebounded to guide Detroit to an 88-80 win over the Indiana Pacers on Thursday, giving the Pistons their 11th consecutive home win.

Wallace also recorded his 1,000th career block, becoming just the 60th player in league history to hit that milestone.

Chauncey Billups added 14 points and had nine assists for the Pistons, who improved to an NBA best 44-9 after losing four of their previous five.

"We were the game, but there are things we need to work on," Detroit coach Flip Saunders told reporters.

"We need to play better for longer stretches than we did tonight if we expect to keep winning games."

The Pistons opposed sluggish for most of the night, but Wallace came alive early in the fourth quarter, hitting four straight—including three 3-pointers—to thwart the Pacers.

Ben Wallace had 13 points and eight rebounds for Detroit while the Pacers' tenacious defense went down the Pacers in the second half.

Detroit's other starters Tayshaun Prince, contributed eight points as the Pistons earned the same five players for the 53rd game in a row.

"When you turn it over 22 times for 30 points, you aren't going to beat a top team," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle told reporters.

SACRAMENTO's Bruce Miller hooks over new Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom. AP

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points as the Mavericks beat the Memphis Grizzlies, 97-87.

Los Angeles, Nobe Bryant scored 31 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter and added a season-high 18 assists to lead the Los Angeles Lakers over Sacramento, 106-85, for their third win in four games. Reuters

NBA at Inter 4 am—San Antonio at Memphis (tape) (TV 5,31)

Woods takes harder route to next round

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA—TIGER WOODS survived a hard-fought victory over American Rodney Allenby on Thursday to advance to the final 16 in the WGC Accenture Match Play Championship.

On a day when all of the remaining big guns survived, top seeded Woods took a severe but hurdle in the final hole to beat Allenby 1 up, advancing along with Fiji's Vijay Singh, South African David Gossen and fellow American Phil Mickelson.

Woods, who posted a record 9 and 8 victory over the hapless Stephen Ames in the first round, had to work a lot harder against Allenby.

The world No. 1 was at a disadvantage early after opening with two bogeys to go 2-down.

"Before were the first two holes with pars, and that's the worst thing you can do on match play," Woods said. "I'm pleased we'll dug, didn't make a bogey."

But Allenby didn't make any birdies either until the 11th hole, and by then he was 1-down. That's where the match stayed until Allenby made it all square with a birdie at the par-three 16th.

It came down to the par-five 18th, where both players hit mammoth drives that left them 249 yards to the hole, close enough to have a crack at the green with their second shots.

While the pin was the right side of the green, all was the only place to miss, and Woods did that, finding a greenside bunker that left him with a relatively easy third shot.

Allenby, however, spinned his second shot to the right and had to settle for par, leaving Woods with a difficult putt for victory, which he drained.

Hugh also lost the first two holes in his match before recovering to beat Miguel Angel Jimenez, 2 and 1.

Fourth seed Gossen smash at his best, but he had enough game to beat Ben Crane, 2 and 1. Mickelson a hole in one at the 16th could save Crane, who promptly succumbed with a bogey at 17.

Mickelson had an easier evening deal with fellow lan Jennifer John Daly, breaking clear by winning the 11th hole with an eagle and the 13th and 14th with birdies to win 2 and 1.

AFP WOODS: Struggling this time

Puerto Princesa hosts Milo run 5th leg Sunday

TEE NATIONAL MILO MARATHON VISITS what perhaps is the greatest and most peaceful city in the country for the first time to stage the fifth qualifying race of its 16th season on Sunday.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn has been invited to fire the starting gun to send off more than 10,000 runners in the 21K, 10K and 3K races.

"We welcome officials and guests of the 30th National Milo Marathon to our city," said Hagedorn.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races in the 21K event will advance to the national finals slated Dec. 19 in Metro Manila.

The top 10 finishers in all three events of the country's largest running marathon series held in partnership with Sanyeles Park Hotel Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific and Powerbar will receive trophies and cash prizes.

The race is hosted by the city government of Puerto Princesa and is organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce.

Race organizer Marly Bercelo said all participants must be at the starting area at 5 a.m.

Undefeated filly hopes to continue juggernaut

ARCADIA CITY, CALIFORNIA—AFP

Arakawa's upset lifts Japan

TURIN, ITALY—WITH RISKS LITERALLY falling by the wayside, Shinska Arakawa calmly and gracefully saved Japan from its worst Winter Games in 20 years with an upset triumph in women's figure skating.

While highly favoured Sasha Cohen and world champion Irina Slutskaya had tumbles, Arakawa performed an elegant and acrobatic routine to Puccini's "Un bel dì vedremo" from Madame Butterfly.

Arakawa won Japan's first Olympic figure skating title and its first—after a long and luscious silver semi...medal of any kind at these Games.

Cohen stumbled twice, ending the United States' chances of a third consecutive women's Olympic title. AP

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Global distinction and nostalgic appeal set Marco Polo Plaza apart

FOR 20 YEARS THE MARCO POLO HOTEL Group (MPHG) proved a formidable name in Asia as it successfully blends the region's innate hospitality with laborers innovation in moving its wide ranging hotel chronicle from different parts of the world.

This summer, the country's avid holiday-makers and business travelers will be in for a one-of-kind travel experience bearing the distinct Marco Polo touch as current Asia Pacific Top Management International Resources Corporation (APTARICC) readies to open the luxurious doors of Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, the first world-class urban resort hotel in the Queen City.

Nestling in Inner Hills, overlooking the breathtaking Cebu City skyline, Marco Polo Plaza Cebu is destined to become a key response with its first-rate amenities and impeccable service.

In an interview with general manager Hans Haari, he expressed confidence Marco Polo Plaza will enjoy good patronage not only because of its unique offerings but also for its nostalgic charm.

"Well, I'm kind amused to create a certain nostalgic appeal particularly to patrons of the former Cebu Plaza Hotel. Now as Marco Polo Plaza, we expect these guests to come and share the new experience with us," shares Haari.

Distinct Marco Polo touch

Vibrant, contemporary, elegant yet comfortable are just some of the fine features of the newly-refurbished Marco Polo Plaza Cebu.

Boasting of 529 well-appointed guest rooms and suites, a three-tiered, fashionable brick-and-wood feel at the Red Bar, Specialty coffees and Tapas at the Coffeeshop and a stunning Seaworld-accented chandelier at its opulent lobby, Hotel believes Marco Polo Plaza's edge is something more than meets the eye.

"It's some our guests to remember the friendliness and effectiveness while staying in our hotel. We were there to leave customer service here is without delays, that we are taking action on there every need or concern. At the same time, we offer a careful balance between meeting the needs of our high and low end market."

Marco Polo Plaza Cebu lies on the sprawling 7.3 hectares of lush greenery complemented by facilities like a tennis court, a mango-shaped pool as well as a jogging trail. It serves as a choice meetings and events venue with 2,900 square meters of flexible meeting space including 12 function rooms and a Grand Ballroom that can accommodate up to 800 in dinner banquet guests.

Extending warmth of welcome accorded to its famous namesake, explorer Marco Polo, on his travel to the East, guests can expect a wonderful stay at Marco Polo Plaza Cebu.

For inquiries on Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, please call 253-1111, TOLL FREE 888 8268, email at reservations@marcopoloplaza.com or log on to www.marcopoloplaza.com.

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People, Events & Products

Product Files

Green tea pleasure

GREEN TEA A CHINESE consumption long been known for its health benefits. It's a warming drink both effective and delicious. But its non-caloric content is what inspires us during afternoons. With Nestlé's Oh-I-Ai Ice Sugar Added Green Tea comes in the form of a delicious, frozen dessert that's also light and fat-free, unlike the ice cream, defying misconceptions that anything this good can't possibly be healthy. This creamy frozen treat has no sugar added, allowing those on a diet to indulge in healthy pleasures without having to worry on calories. And with the addition of tea all-natural Green Tea, rich in anti-oxidants that significantly lower cholesterol and risks of certain kinds of cancer, there's more worthy reasons to enjoy. Indulge at its best! It also comes in Mango and Cool Vanilla flavors and is exclusively available in Mercury mall service stores nationwide.

Benchmark flexibility

FULL-SERVICE AND INTERNET-READY IT SOLUTIONS provider Benchmark Electronics Philippines, Inc. (BENCH) has launched its leading continuous feed digital printing line with the Fuji Xerox 490i Continuous Feed, equipped with new Fiery-based technology to provide Single-sided Duplex printer. Xerox's 500 page-per-minute print speed Duplex With 4-0 also equipped with Fiery-based technology that enables you to offer a variety of mark application and advanced level of print quality at this speed. Fuji Xerox 490i continuous feed is the first printer with the fiery technology that delivers Color Matching and Benchmark technology throughout Asian Pacific countries. The 490i ADOBE simplifies Xerox exclusive Intelligent Print Job Manager control workflows and Print Like Box for benchmark flexibility in managing print engines and reading and writing devices. For more information on Fuji Xerox 490i Continuous Feed Duplex Printer systems, visit some Fuji Xerox or call your local sales office.

3rd Bro. Benedict Golf Cup

IN AN EFFORT TO BRING TOGETHER ATENEANS from all perspectives and from the many Loyolaites scattered all over the country, the Silver Jubilarian Class of 1981 is hosting the 3rd Bro. Benedict Golf Cup on the Fil. Forest Golf and Country Club at Sta. Rosa, Laguna come Feb. 27. Forming teams by batch, college or campus is encouraged. The tournament commences with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Prize, every green bloodsh another shoulder register and take part in this year's Bl. Benedict Golf Cup. To register, call Jun Lim at 0918-638 or visit www.ateneo.edu/alumni. Join now and get a chance to win a Toyota Altis or Innova. The 3rd Bro. Benedict Golf Cup is part of several activities lined up in preparation for grand alumni homecoming entitled Over La Galle Ang Ganap Mapag-Kaisa, on March 4 at the De La Salle University Campus at Taft Avenue, Manila.

GASC open for reservation for school year 2006-2007

GOLDENGATE'S SUPERLEARNING CENTER, a preschool that caters to children ages 6 months to 6 years old, is now open for reservation for SY 2006-2007. Annette Mhoney, directress, takes pride in their graduates scoring as high as 5 in the absolute "top" schools of their choice. Latest learning techniques and gadgets have been brought in by Mhoney, a first returning abroad, to ensure that students not only experience by learn at least speed. The school is so highly sought after that it opens on every one Number that is kind to more early as there are kinder and nursery and also to enroll before summer. For more information, you may call or visit Golden Angels Superlearning Center at 288 Sitio St. corner M. Ramos St., San Juan (mr. cor. 726-6042, 7 68-7961) or at the GF Alpha Galleria Condominium, De La Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati (tel. no. 867-3609, cell no. 0916-4420662).

SC JOHNSON HONORED WITH PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

SC Johnson & Son Inc., was awarded the first Presidential Award for Corporate Leadership from GS Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez at a White House ceremony. The honor is the only Presidential Award to recognize companies for outstanding achievements in employee and community relations. SC Johnson is being recognized for the unique partnership it has developed with Pinamungajan, in 2003. SC Johnson devised the environmental remediation system Greenfist to transform the way the company measures, tracks and continues to advance its products to further the company's commitment to sustainability and environmentally responsible products. Through Greenfist, SC Johnson continues to lead the way with responsible raw material choices. Photo shows

SC Johnson chair and CEO Fisk Johnson (right) accepting the First Green Award for Corporate Leadership on behalf of SC Johnson.

2006 Mr and Ms Dragonboat

BITS Clips

THE 1ST ANNUAL DRAGONBOAT Festival Competition (FCBF) held the first canvassing of ballot tickets for the search for 2006 Mr and Ms Dragonboat last Jan. 22 during the Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church in Manila Bay, Baywalk. From 37 candidates, Chanca Calaliet of the DCSI Dragonboat Team and Arvin Olmeda of the Manila Marina Paddlers led the final canvassing. Raffle prizes were also given away during the event and sent to Mr. & Ms. Lopez (first prize), roundtrip ticket to any Philippine destination sponsored by Manila Tours and Ray Tabuchino (second prize). P4,000 gift certificate worth of sports apparel courtesy of Exclusive Concepts. The next festival canvassing is scheduled in March 2006. For inquiries, e-mail phildragonboat@yahoo.com.

Sunmax holds grand sale

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE KITCHEN TOOLS OR gadgets that is right within your budget? Sunmax, a leading homeware brand in the country, celebrates Chinese New Year by offering big discounts on its natural line of kitchen tools and cookware as well as choice kettle, baking pans, wok, steamer and steamer set. Shoppers get not only value for money discounts but also free gifts like pot holders with purchase, hot and cold beverage containers, among others. So, invigorate your kitchen with great deals from Sunmax. Visit any leading department store nationwide. Offer is good until Feb. 28, only. Sunmax, distributed by Metro Kitchenware Inc. is known for its fine waterfront stainless steel cookware, cutlery, beeware and serving items that are durable, dependable and stylish.

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

NOW SHOWING

Lavish theatricality in Marshall's romantic drama

ZHANG. Luminous, strong, sympathetic...

By Rito P. Asilo

"Memoirs of a Geisha"
Dir: Rob Marshall
S: Zhi Zhang, Gong Li, Michelle Yeoh

ROB MARSHALL'S SUMPTUOUS CINEMATIC adaptation, the director's search-by-follow-up to the 2002 Oscar best picture, "Chicago," is a lush, medium-less exposition of Arthur Golden's bestselling 1997 novel, "Memoirs of a Geisha," about the oft-repeated tale of a poor girl who earns the unattainable man of her dreams.

The film recounts the life of Chiyo Sayori aka Ohtsu (Zhi Zhang) who, with her sister, is sold by her poor fisherman father to an okiya (geisha house) in the late 1920s.

There, Matsuka (Michelle Yeoh), a big, cruisy geisha, takes the awkward 15-year-old Chiyo under her wing to teach her singing, dancing, calligraphy, flower arranging, playing the three-stringed shamisen and other ways to entertain distinguished Japanese gentlemen.

Charmed life? Not really because there's something geishas are forbidden to do: fall in love. When Hatsumomo (Gong Li), the prime geisha of the '30s, wants to feel threatened by Sayuri's burgeoning beauty, grace and popularity, she does everything to destroy her competition. This is "Kissing Wedding Wagging" in leisure? But, will Sayuri's story have a happy ending?

Marshall's lavish theatricality and visual savvy capture the emotional depth and historical scope of his novel's dread-heavy narrative in stunning strokes.

But, the director's vision would not have been realized without the movie's principal actors, who fit their roles to a T. Their respective motivations are expertly drawn and intricately woven together: Zhang is luminous and strong but sympathetic, Li conveys bitterness and ambition, Yeoh projects strength and wisdom, Watanabe (as the Chairman, Sayuri's secret love) is dashing and dignified.

However, a flaw gnawed at the movie's technical strength and structural essence. While the individual motivations of the characters are empathetic, understandable and logical, the entire 20hrs of the geisha mystique

(AFTER) A2

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CLOSE TO YOU	FINAL DESTINATION 3	CRASHER BY THE DOZEN 2
MEMORIES OF GEISHA	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE	MEMORIES OF GEISHA
	AEON FLUX	
	CLOSE TO YOU	
	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	
	MEMORIES OF GEISHA	

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MEMORIES OF GEISHA	PINK PANTHER	CLOSE TO YOU
BLOODRAYNE	FINAL DESTINATION 3	THE MAZE
PINK PANTHER	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE	WALK THE LINE
NEW WORLD	MEMORIES OF GEISHA	
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	MGA BATANG RANGGOTA	
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THE MAZE	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	NEW WORLD
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CLOONEY Plays a GI operative in Stephen Gaghan's "Syriana."

Lavish...

From page A2-1

remains sketchy, detached, even elusive, and is oftentimes overwhelmed by its romanticized rendering. You perceive the production from achieving real illumination and catharsis.

Plain scientific sounding, it's not hard to fall in love with the story of Sayuri...how she finds love and, despite restrictions, pursues it, how it is "the" love to choose. We don't become privy to pursue our own destiny." But, the heart always follows where it wants/needs it.

"Mga Batang Bangkota"

By Angelito Al De Guzman

With Camille Prats, Marco Sison

Angelito De Guzman resurrects his indie's 1993 melodrama, "Mga batang bangkota," a dated, dissonant story about Clarissa (Camille Prats) and her siblings, who live with a group of orphans and street urchins in benches on the streets of Sta. Cruz after running away from an abusive, alcoholic father. Lino Rodriguez's role is interesting. Angeli's mom is lifeless/blended.

Together, they face drug dealers, abusive cops, sexual predators, diamond-smuggling goons—and danger.

The movie features shameless displays of baby-prays-unmoved-ing, bad dialogue (do rough cops really say things like "bate na kahoy kaya lang")), and actors who have run badly ring and awkwardly disengaged romantic/emotional entities.

Well, the camera tears expended in the film, it isn't hard to figure out the sinking ran, seabed, he drowns in an ocean—and viewers—both.

But, the irony of the Cinefil-endorsed film's distributors and exhibitors, unlisted on us is this.

LAVISH-KO-1

Cooking tilt maintains frenetic pace

By Nestor Torre

IF THE ONE-HUNDRED "REALITY CHANNEL" shows I held any significance for you, then you've been missing out on one of cable television's sweet treats.

The opening words to "Iron Chef" literally mean "Cut Kitchen!" They signal the start of a cooking show Cint has amassed a following in practically every country on the planet that has access to a lifestyle channel.

Originally aired in Japan from 1993 to 1999, and constantly being replayed ever since, "Iron Chef" is not your typical cooking show. It features a charismatic announcer, a culinary showdown between two renowned chefs, and—literally—a secret ingredient.

Flamboyant

This mix of hot competition, flamboyance, gastronomic delights, and the pressure of a 60-minute time limit is a winner—and the savvy people on American television immediately picked up on it.

However, the first attempt at creating an American version, dubbed "Iron Chef USA," was an unequivocal disaster. Hosted by William Shatner, who tried to do a Dharmon Kaga (the original's colorful announcer), it looked more like a parody than a real show, and only had two episodes.

Success came when the Food Network cried its hand at the same format last year. Their version, "Iron Chef America," is now enjoying a second hit season.

The American Iron Chefs are Masaharu Mo-

"THE FLIGHT THAT FOUGHT BACK." Taboo stories out of the fuzzy realm of hearsay, into stupid light.

Compelling documentary about terrorism and heroism

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST MONTH, DISCOVERY CHANNEL aired an especially gripping documentary, "The Flight That Fought Back," about the fourth aircraft in the 9-11 terrorist attacks. You'll recall that the first two planes hit the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the third slammed into the Pentagon, while the fourth crashed into a field in Virginia.

Evidence

At first, some investigators didn't suspect the fourth aircraft in the 9-11 terrorist plot. Soon enough, however, evidence surfaced that made the connection clear, and stories began to be told about the heroism of the crashed aircraft's passengers.

"The Flight That Fought Back" is a particularly impressive production because it so deceptively takes the stories out of the fuzzy realm of hearsay, into inspiring fact.

The documentary hones in sentiment on a surprisingly large number of cell phone conversations that the doomed passengers had with their relatives while the hijack was in progress.

Particularly moving were recordings of the actual conversations, during which viewers heard the surprisingly calm voices of the besieged passengers.

At first, the passengers simply reported that their plane had been skyjacked. Soon enough, however, they were voicing their suspicion that their aircraft was part of a larger plot against the United States.

Under attack

This happened after one of the relatives reported to a passenger that the World Trade Center was under attack.

Realizing that, the passengers concluded that their plane was headed for its own target, which they later pinpointed as either the White House or the Capitol in Washington, DC.

They came to this conclusion after their plane took a 40-minute "detour" to the Washington area. They then weighed their options: Would they "obediently" go down with the plane, or would they try to gain control of it by joining forces to attack the terrorists in the aircraft's cockpit?

Ironically, they decided to put the second option into play...and this is where the documentary reaches truly impressive and moving heights of heroic drama.

Passengers

This drama makes for involving viewing, and is rendered even more compelling by the intense portrayals of the actors who play the heroic passengers in the program's climax. Mario Bautil, Cat Cora and Bobby Flay...celebrity chefs whom Lifestyle Channel watchers will no doubt recognize.

In every episode, one of them is chosen by the Chairman (played by actor Mark Dacascos) to contend with a challenger, who is usually another well-known chef. Then, the secret ingredient, which the contenders must use in five different dishes, is revealed.

Cooking

In one of the previous season's most exciting shows, "Out Of the Deli," Flay battled feisty "Iron Sheen Wan" chef Ming Tsai. Their secret ingredient: Duck.

Seconds after the revelation, the two—both literally—ran to their respective sections in the Kitchen Stadium, and started chopping and mixing away at a breathless pace. Cooking, this episode shows us, can be an action-packed event!

Newcomer Sheen Brown (of "Good Eats") gave a well-rehearsed commentary on the various culinary processes, and one could only marvel at Flay's and Ming's feverish intensity.

It was not unlike watching a car race, in fact...only even more impressive. Those people didn't just have to create the finish line, they also had to create a five-course meal that had to look like a work of art, be original and, of course, taste delicious!

Most memorable

The frenetic yet graceful pace was mainly what made this episode most memorable. Sure Ming's hi-tech way of separating duck skin from the meat (in an pump was involved) and his foie gras crème brulee certainly left an impression, as well. The winner, needless to say, was Ming Tsai, though Flay put up a very good fight.

For local "Iron Chef" fans, this toned-down version may not afford that much entertainment. But, if you're a foodie, you won't mourn the loss of Chairman Kaga's diminutive-studded capes. Instead, you'll celebrate the fact that the competing chefs can still tell the viewer how to make 10-ingredient grub!

TEAM. "Team Mario/Wan's" chef smorgasbord reverses to intense showdown with Bobby Flay.

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STREET SMART
Mandy Navarro

Heroes

IT WAS ON FEB. 22, 1986 WHEN JUAN Ponce Enrile and his men realized that their attempted coup against Marcos had been discovered by Gen. Fidel Ramos. That was where the uprising began.

This moment is included in the foundation for Pinklaktale People Power's latest 10-minute video documentary, "Ulos 1986: Mga Tunig ng Himagsikan," produced to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution.

Objective

The doco's objective is to "acknowledge the real 'heroes' of the 1986 Revolution, as well as little-known individuals whose contributions to the success of the uprising have been glossed over or especially forgotten" people like filmmaker Ishmael Bernal's former special assistant, who shares details of the coup plot); a former member of the Presidential Security Command, who revealed the plot to his superiors after Enrile's RAM group attempted to recruit him, and Jovito Kasan Fidel Ramos' former security officer, who adamantly claims that holding out in Camps Aguinaldo and Crame was never in his group's original plan).

Other personalities

HEROES A2-3

APOSTOL. Producer of "Ulos (1986 Mga Tunig ng Himagsikan."

Spotlight on women directors at Bangkok filmfest

By Hector U. Tarre

AT THE BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL Film Festival last week, we focused on a number of special concerns. One of them was the rise of female directors in international cinema.

The well-programmed festival added on its appreciation the unique contributions of female directors from a wide range of countries.

Attraction

From Israeli Abiva, Hermine Zaoui-Jacobi was represented by "White Mama," an impressive film about a Swiss woman on vacation in Kenya, whose powerful attraction to a Masai warrior inspired her to leave her boyfriend and follow her heart.

Contrasting races

The film explored not just women's issues in Africa, but also the many fascinating ways these people belonging to two contrasting races are different ...and the same.

French-woman Diane Bertrand does some gripping around with twin of her own: to "The Ring Finger," she has taken Japanese writer Yoko Ogawa's novel and transposed it to the industrial setting of Hamburg. In Bertrand's adaptation, a female factory worker shares a room with a woman she never sees, and has an enigmatic relationship with her employer.

Vera Fogwill, an actress and playwright from Argentina, directed "Rage and Boundaries," a film about a nine-year-old girl who has to take care of her bedridden mother, who in turn is hired as a maid by her former best friend, a rich and spoiled housewife. Once can the mother get out of the run she's in? Her gutsy daughter provides the answers.

From Switzerland, Jeanette Lerdel's "Rytal" is about the teenage daughter of an oppressive man who longed for a son, and thus forces her to dress and act like a boy.

Change

One day she falls in love, and she wears a dress for the first time in her life. Sadly, she is betrayed by the man who she dreams to be, and she decides to change her life.

Reza Safari, a filmmaker from Afghanistan, directed "Three Sons," about the plight of women after the war there. Without the protection of a husband and family, they are easy prey.

Warlord

After a six-year drought, she is found to marry a brutal old warlord, who makes her a concubine for an opium-smuggling ring. The ring is busted, and she is arrested.

Interestingly, Safar is Afghanistan's youngest filmmaker, a 26-year-old woman who taught herself filmmaking by studying manuals smuggled into the country.

And, impressively, "Three Daus" won the top prize at the Afghan Film Festival!

Japanese thespian in US movies

By Bobe Cervantes

BEFORE THE PACIFIC WAR, PEOple of Japanese descent in Hollywood were relegated to playing Oriental gardeners working for the rich and famous. But, few people are aware that a Japanese actor had already made his mark in the film capital in the early part of the 20th century.

In 1912, Kamon "Sessue" Hayakawa dropped by Los Angeles after his graduation from the University of Chicago.

A descendant of a Japanese aristocratic line, the young man was destined a military career because of parental ambitions, to be named to the Imperialist ranks.

Theater

In Los Angeles, he decided to become a part of a Japanese theater troupe, where his talents was immediately noticed. The young Japanese man later offered a film contract by producer Thomas Ince, who found Hayakawa an "exotic and expressive" actor—for use differents. His controlled style of acting was in direct contrast to the broad gestures that characterized the acting styles of many thespians of the silent film era.

In Sessue's performances, he incorporated the restrained, minimalist movement of traditional Japanese theaters, particularly the excerpts Noh. Thus, the 25-year-old became quite a screen personality

KAMAKAWA. His approach to acting was a combination of the Method and Zen.

after a successful appearance in "The Typhoon" in 1914.

In 1918, his renowned portrayal of a lecherous villain to Cecil B. deMille's "The Cheat" impressed society. He soon set up his own company, Haworth Pictures, which eventually produced more than 30 pictures.

Approach

Hayakawa's approach to acting was considered a combination of the Method and Zen. He acted in Hollywood films until 1923, during which time he played "exotic" heroes and memorable villains.

However, Hayakawa decided to leave Hollywood to try his luck in Europe. He had acted here in France, where he starred in films like "La Bataille" and "Det'mon."

After this, was in the late '40s, he made a Hollywood comeback, wrote a novel, "The Bandit Prince," a play, "The Life of the Buddha," and a spiritual biography, "Ten Diamond On the Play."

Quiet presence

I am a fan of Hayakawa, as were John Brocks, Adol de Lucio and Jeanne Gamboa. As a student of film acting, I was impressed by his quiet presence as the dominant Japanese commander in David Sarnoff's 1957 war classic, "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

I thought it was ridiculous that Alec Guinness won the Oscar for best actor, while Hayakawa was denied the well-deserved honor in the best supporting actor category. That loss was one of my early but distinct disenchantments with the Academy Awards.

Sessue had already delivered impressive performances in "Tokyo Joe," "Three Came Home" and "Let Heaven Judge." He later appeared in "Gunga Din" with Jerry Lewis, "Green Mansions" with Audrey Hepburn, and "The Swiss Family Robinson."

The well-respected Hayakawa died in 1970. But, he had opened Hollywood's doors for many Japanese actors who came after him.

'Momma' loses steam

By Norland Tarre

DEY PUTS ON OLD-LADY PIF SUIT AND paten an nanny Eyeball familiar? This is more or less what Robin Williams did—very well—in "Mrs. Doubtfire," and is what Martin Lawrence is doing now in "Big Momma's House 2."

The sequel to "Big Momma's House," the movie has FBI agent, Malcolm Turner (Lawrence), donning a brassy wig, fat suit, and tons like dresses once more!

This time, he needs to infiltrate the enemy camp—the household of a possibly erring software CEO—in order to find out whether Daddy has been selling dangerous software to the bad guys. And he has to do it in this without his cop, since he's not supposed to be working on the case in the first place.

Pregnant wife

While in the house, Big Momma knock with the kids...one of whom doesn't speak and likes to jump off heights—while his very pregnant wife (Nia Long) back home thinks that he's having an affair. It's a subplot that looks like it could have been engineered just to set up the giant-thong joke.

The entire story, in fact, looks like it was thought up by people who were just looking for the slightest chance to get Lawrence to wear his wig again. Why anybody would want to do that is a mystery. How many fat lady jokes can you crack?

Lawrence is amusing in fat Big Momma get-up, but no amount of comical posing and mugging off can cover up all of the holes in this crowdpleasing caper. The plot is one improbability after another, and it's unrelieved (no thirty-cent for a slapstick comedy.

LAWRENCE. Does he wear wig and fat suit again.

Sentimental lines

Interestingly, when Lawrence is himself—that is, Malcolm Turner—he comes to be funny. In "BIBB2," if he's not cuckled in a closet, he's saddled with sentimental lines and general sappiness. You can OD on the sugar while you're waiting for a punchline that doesn't come.

Despite upside, there's no bathroom humor, and the sexual references are mild, so it's generally family-friendly. Unfortunately, the movie also makes you crave for more sanctimonious, if only because its parts is so slow.

Arabic proverbs

Turn to page A2-3

down...when a beam a man's head, is taken wing.

May these proverbs lighten your burdens in life!

Compelling documentary

Turn to page A2-3

documentaries.

Despite all that heroic intensity, however, what remains in the viewer's heart and mind after the documentary is over is the calm heroism of the passengers.

It's an inspiring view of a tragic situation that has been transformed into a moment of triumph for the human spirit, by the passengers' determination to beat down in evil—and to fight back!

Heroes

Turn to page A2-4

who presided revealing sessions: former US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth; writer-historian Alfred McCoy, former Army operations chief Leandro Aballa, and Ginnes Terry and Pang, whose photo of posing in front of the tanks became famous worldwide.

Unique insights on Marcos provided by political scientist Ana Marcos, newspaper columnist Manuel L. Quezon III and historian Stephen Henry Tonson.

Significance

The documentary's primary target audience is the youth, to remind them of those events and their significance.

Spec member Jim Paredes and TV personality Hanna Gonzalez act as presenters, while Kimbo Sadal provides some songs.

"Edsa 1986: Mga Tinig ng Himagsikan" is directed by Butch Francisco. The script is written by Nancy and Raul Rodrigo, and narrator score is by Ron de Guzman. Scenic Tours is give free consultant. The special documentaries will be shown tomorrow, 9 p.m. on Hero.

Producer

Eugenia Duran Apostol, producer of the documentary, has invited the original staff of Bb. & Bk. to the "Edsa Pasl's" screening of the film.

Mandy Navasero's Batch 2000 Students' Photoworkshop is scheduled from April 9 to May 27, and the fifth Batanes Photo Safari takes place from April 12 to 15 in cooperation with Pentax Treats.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 899-1767.

Pinoy performers shine at HK Disneyland

By Rito P. Asilo

THE OPENING OF DISNEYland Hong Kong last September was welcomed by media from around Asia with great anticipation—and with good reason.

Despite its US$3.6-billion tag price, Disney's Magic Kingdom on Lantau Island is the smallest among the Disneylands in the world. But, it has an ace on its happy sleeve that the company's theme parks in the US, France and Japan can hardly boast of: Pinoy performers.

On our recent trip to Hong Kong, we made it a point to visit Disneyland to see how our colleagues from the local theater industry were doing.

Ubiquitous sightings

Aside from magnificent castles (like the Lantern Castle) and ubiquitous sightings of Disney characters like Snow White, Goofy and the Mickey Mouse, the park was bustling with Filipino performers—singers, dancers and musicians, who made a beeline for the castle each early last year—and we were delighted to see them doing so well.

After a theater conference at the Foreign Club, we hopped on the Disney line of the MTR (the island's version of our MRT), and rushed to Disneyland.

We headed straight to the Festival Theater, a state-of-the-art performance venue in the Magic Kingdom's Fantasyland, where performances of "The Golden Mickeys"—a 30-minute song and dance revue that features a potpourri of Disney's classics in an Oscar-like awards show—are staged all day long.

We had to join a long queue for

DIANNABEN. Plays Shang in "Mulan" segment of "The Golden Mickeys."

LANTERN Castle lights up the Magic Kingdom.

half an hour before the gates opened to make sure we'd make it inside the theater.

To say the least, the show was worth the long wait. We weren't just dazzled by its pomp and splendor, we were likewise charmed by how pride when we saw our familiar faces onstage.

Dianna Buenaña, playing the affable mouse, held the show together, from her feisty opening spiel to the rollicking finale—although we were quite baffled by Disney's decision to have her speak only in Cantonese from beginning to end!

Buenaña wasn't the only Pinoy performer who scored the huge, (unintentional) crowd.

Bobbi Gustadon, who played Commander Shang, the Chinese warrior in the "Mulan" segment, cut a dashing, imposing figure onstage, and Hanya played Dora's mom, the regular presenter from "The Hanshiluk of Mulan Chans." Jaeya Sotomolos and Sheila Valderamos, who weren't onstage that day, also play important roles in the revue.

There were no pinoys and special effects that we're sure early on in the film that's directed by the acclaimed Terrence Malick.

Interview

We caught a TV interview in which Kidlets revealed that she's also a singer, and in fact has been a minor singer ever since she was a kid. She also is proud that she made hundreds of dollars in tips yesterday!

For proof positive, she did some singing on the TV show—and she got a standing ovation from the studio audience! Clearly, she should star in a musical soon!

Another, on the other hand, was discovered when she was plucked from the floor of Manila Film and "Sunny Gallardo's "Bituin Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?," to take over the role of Jose Rizal's mom, Doña Teodora Alonso, from theater veteran Ana Vivas when the production had to tour around the country.

We are particularly close to Jim because we toured Asia and then Cambodia's Angkor Wat with "Magic Kat," where she alternated with Pinky Marquez for the role of the Virgin Mary. (She even learned to speak Visayan when the popular musicals Cebuano version opened in Cebu in 1999!)

Acclaim

The latter won acclaim for her scene-stealing performances in Repertory Philippines's "Nanay si Flor, ate!," Atlantis' "Swanggit!" and Ballet Philippines' "Darna."

Tex, Bobbi and Phoenix are just three of the many Pinoy faces in Disney's Magic Kingdom as the former British colony.

Indeed, the happiest place on Earth has surpassed Hong Kong Tex, too without the help of some of the biggest, happiest—and best—performers this side of the globe!

Fresh faces, new directions

By Hector U. Tarce

GINO CERVANTES HAS MADE A name for himself in Singapore as stand-up comic, events host and singer.

Now, he's bent on making it in his homeland, which is why he's performing in Fort's version of "Stand-Up Comedy Hall and Friends" Cafe. Last Feb. 25, he was a guest performer in John Clarence's show at Music Museum.

In the soccer drama, "Goal!," up and coming Carlos cast, Rainer Rocha, Gerard Santiago, an unidentified young man who studies at second jobs to achieve his dream of becoming an international football star.

Challenges

He endures all sorts of clair forges—injuries, personal woes, muddy fields, cold winds and crunching, blows from teammates—in pursue that he deserves to play for the glamorous Premiere English League Club, Manchester United.

RIS CHOIR. Was born to attract singer about she runs a kid.

Front Japan comes a new trio, Core of Soul. The band is composed of vocalist Pablo Sidasoon, guitarist Jonnie Song Bat, and keyboardist-synthesizer Anisah Imdia. But sure an exchange are, their from Beijing before he decided to join the group in Dudia.

Their two albums, "Natural Beauty" and "Over the Time, Time is Over," have been chartbusters in Japan. They were One

Asia will star in inspiration performers, Elmar Rogen. The new production at the Adolphi The ater will be directed by Michael Grandage.

And, the current film, "The New World," exploits fresh young actress, O'Dakota Kitchen, as Pocahontas. Kitchen's father is a Peruvian Quechua Indian, and her mother is Swiss.

Reviewers believe that the 19-year-old actress runs away with the film, which is directed by the acclaimed Terrence Malick.

Interview

We caught a TV interview in which Kidlets revealed that she's also a singer, and in fact has been a minor singer ever since she was a kid. She also is proud that she made hundreds of dollars in tips yesterday!

For proof positive, she did some singing on the TV show—and she got a standing ovation from the studio audience! Clearly, she should star in a musical soon!

Sparky edginess

Made here at home, Christine Schuler has been tapped to model for Darlin Underwear. The Pil Cerman comer was chosen for his sparky edginess, a quality deemed right for Darlin fashions.

Vien has signed up "Star in A Million" finalists, Jenny Marquez and Nonoy Zuñiga. Both Viva Records and Viva Artists Agency has big plans for the young singers. Other VIA artists are Aiza Gatin, Rachelle Ann Go and Mark Bautista.

All the way from London's West End comes news that the musical production of "Evita" is

CHIAN. Performs with hay Abrazos.

'A Heart's Journey' at Crossroad 77

JOSE MARI CHAN WILL PERform with Jaya Alvarez in "A Heart's Journey" at Crossroad 77 (Brother Apascio corner Sct. Eulalio, QC) tonight. Concert host-officiary is the Manilita Salesian-sized Learning Experience. The show at the SRS is a series of the More Than Valentine presenta-

MONTAGE Store of Genuine Pattern Inc. Call 374-4022.

Jolina's road tour

Jolina Magdangal's "Tulay Pa Rin ang Isa" mall tour hits Old City Publishers at 5 p.m. today, Feb. 25; Our Lady of Mercedes Subdivision, Barangay Dasmariñas, Cavite, at 5 p.m. tomorrow, Feb. 26; Robinsons Place Antipolo at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27; Robinsons Place Iloilo at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28; Robinsons Place Bacolod at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 1; Robinsons Place Cebu at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2; Robinsons Place Dumaguete at 5 p.m. Friday, March 3; Robinsons Place General Santos at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 4; Robinsons Place Davao at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 5; Robinsons Place Cagayan de Oro at 5 p.m. Monday, March 6; Robinsons Place Iligan at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 7; Robinsons Place Zamboanga at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 8; Robinsons Place Butuan at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 9; Robinsons Place Tacloban at 5 p.m. Friday, March 10; Robinsons Place Ormoc at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 11; Robinsons Place Roxas at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 12; Robinsons Place Dagupan at 5 p.m. Monday, March 13; Robinsons Place Baguio at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 14; 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LOTUS POND

R. Valenciano and T. Alvarado

Arabic Proverbs

WE WOULD LIKE TO share with you these Arabic proverbs that may enlighten your life:

* The second that blockth inwardly is the most dangerous.
* The ground of words is more than the ground of sounds.
* Patience is heroism.

Three things

* Only three things in life are certain: death, death and change.
* He who plants thistle must never expect to gather roses.
* Every day of your life is a page in your history.
* Every ambitious man is a hipster, and every american one is a yuppie.
* Arrogance is a sword that grows smaller on sharpening.
* Arrogance is the unbroken rainbow.
* A home of good bread is not chilicovered by biscuits.

Inquiry

* A foolish man may be known by six things: Anger without cause, speech without profit, life without progress, inquiry without object, putting trust in a stranger, and unfaithfulness for friends.
* The one-eyed person is a luxury to the society-of-the blind.
* A secret is like a

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3 MURDER	5 CLOSE TO YOU
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	5 AEON FLUX
3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	10 PINK PANTHER

ERMITA

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	
2 MURDER	5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
3 CLOSE TO YOU	5 SYRIANA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3	7 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

METRO EAST

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3	5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2 SYRIANA	6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	7 CLOSE TO YOU
4 AEON FLUX	8 MGA BATANG BANGHETA

NOVALICHES

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	4 MURDER
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4 SAW 3	4 PINK PANTHER
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	

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1 NEW WORLD	1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU	2 CLOSE TO YOU
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4 AEON FLUX	4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	5 BLOODRAYNE
	6 NEW WORLD

BACOLOD **ILOILO**

1 BLOODRAYNE	1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PINK PANTHER	2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 CLOSE TO YOU	3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE	4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
6 SAW 2	6 MUNICH

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Thailand releases first animated feature

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR YEARS NOW, MOVIE BUFS persuading some Filipino movie producers to finance the making of full-length animated features. Their fun, however, nobody has taken the plunge, due to the big budget and long production time involved.

As one producer admitted, the local tendency is to aim for short-range investments and recouping costs in only a few months. The easy-to-four-year schedule for many animated features runs off producers here because "our money would be 'sleeping' for such a long time."

Investment

That's too bad, because Filipino film talents are well-suited to make animated features. Quite a number of Filipino animators have been hired by studios abroad, as all we need is the cinematic "polished" will, major investment in time and money, and more eventful storytelling to come up with animated features that can be sold to film markets all over the world.

Big advantage

That's the big advantage of animated features over other film types: they're largely visual, so they can be understood by and appeal to all sorts of viewers in different countries.

We gained these insights when we covered the production of Dreamworks' "The Prince of Egypt" and "Shrek" in Los Angeles. The lessons we learned there were made more significant by our interviews with Filipino animators and story editors who worked for Dreamworks, and some of them expressed the willingness and even the desire to come to Manila to help Filipino animated feature-film producers get a good start.

Those thoughts come to mind, because we've just viewed 20 minutes' worth of edited footage from the film that animated heroes, which will be completed and premiered this May, after which it will be sold internationally.

Titled "Khan Khay The King's Elephant," the 84-minute feature is produced by Kanaxnoo animation in Bangkok, and has taken two years to make it to the big screen.

The film is about a curious and naughty young elephant who goes on a journey to look for his missing father. He learns a lot from the different and colorful characters he encounters along the way.

He also learns to live with his enemies, and this eventually leads to self-sacrifice as he goes to war as one of King Narenuan's "cavalry" of elephants in the 1500s.

"KHAN KLUAY": Took two years to make.

Sequences

The opening sequence we viewed in Kanaknoo's screening room impressed us with the production's cute characters and colorful images. The Thais we talked to agreed with us that the movie would be a huge hit with the country's child and family audiences.

In point of worldwide distribution, however, the movie could be limited abroad, especially in the west, for its rather slow story telling.

Still, some markets may have a lot to excite qualities, and "Khan Khay" could enjoy a good international run.

Preview

As we viewed its partial preview, we found ourselves noting the fact that we weren't watching a Filipino animated feature. Well, perhaps in a few more years.

[illegible] "Khan Khay" was 120,000,000 baht to produce—that isn't much more than the budget for the 2003 Metro Manila movie, "Exodus," so we trust that we overpaid and he enjoyed Filipino producers on a consortium of financiers hundreds a local animated feature soon!

Isabella takes the jazz route

By Rory M. Orosco

ISABELLA, WHO'S TO explore other forms of expression.

TWENTY ONE-YEAR-old Isabella Marie Francisco grew up on the booming music of her mother, Bish Ledesma. It was just a matter of time before she would follow the footsteps of her famous mom.

Admittedly, she loves music, but her young mind wants to explore other forms of expression. She found herself drawn to abstract painting.

Singing career

Last year, however, Francisco decided to embark on a singing career. Kuh was delighted, but had this simple piece of advice for her daughter. "Go ahead if it will make you happy, but be serious and professional about it. Don't enter into it half-heartedly!"

Isabella was reintroduced to the public last Feb. 13 and 14 in her special "Valentine concert, 'Face You, Face Me,'" at the newly opened Trattoria in Greenhills. She was joined by Richard Mark, whom she considers her mentor.

She was grateful for the opportunity. For his part, richard guided Isabella, and taught her everything he knew about jazz. He gave her a book on the history of jazz.

Enthusiasm

Richard was happy to discover Isabella's passion and enthusiasm for the musical genre that was passed on to him by his uncles, the legendary Arnie Braid. "She knows more jazz standards I did. She sang songs that inspired, and tones that conveyed good values," Mark shared.

Isabella's collection of jazz titles includes an impressive mix of top names, from Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaugh, Billie Holiday to contemporary artists like Michael Bublé.

Lazaro holds on to Raven's dream

By Jocelyn Valle

AFTER SURVIVING TWO MAJOR OPERAtions that were supposed to have cured his obstructive jaundice in September 2003, Ray Marcus excitedly talked about his wish to revitalize the theater scene in the country. He chose to recuperate in Baguio, but a month later, the man he admired most passed away.

For his part, Marcus's friend, Ronnie Lazaro, doesn't want his colleague's dream to die. So, he put up Ang Pilipino Mobile Theater two years ago. "It's an offshoot of Teatro Tesoclan, the theater group that Raven and I formed with Dee Medina in the '90s," he explains.

Respectable salaries

"We wanted to uplift the state of theater and provide respectable salaries for actors. The movie industry has been having a rough time, and an MMDA saving to stage playwrights a good fallback. And something that we truly enjoy doing."

Just like Teatro Tesoclan, Ang Pilipino Mobile Theater chose Rene Villanueva's "Hihintay Ako" as its showpiece. "Aside from the creative challenges that the material presents to actors, it also inspires spiritual role, which is perfect for touring," says Ronnie.

Ang Pilipino Mobile Theater has assembled actors on its roster: Lou Veloso, Bodjie Pascua, Archie Adamos, Joe Gruta, Crispin Pineda, Mike Llanera, Subeano Uno, Sherry Lara, Madeleine Nicolas and Jenna Concepcion. Actress Aurora Salcedo Dionisio's position the act based on the direction of Dee Medina.

Importance

Ronnie adds, "We'd rather give importance to the material, not personalities. This way, we will be able to educate our clients. We also recognize the actors after each performance."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Marlowe

Gov't sees 25% jump in income taxes

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT expects to raise its income-tax collection by about 25 percent to P401.3 billion this year following the recent increase in the income-tax rate slapped on corporate entities.

P401-B collection seen with rate hike to 35%

The income-tax collection target accounts for 59 percent of the total BIR tax collection goal of P679.33 billion for 2006.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buting has issued a memorandum directing all assistant commissioners, regional directors and revenue district officers to work on achieving the higher income-tax collection target for this year.

The ambitious target of a 25-percent increase in income tax collection from corporate and individual taxpayers follows the shortfall in collection last year.

Documents from the BIR showed that income tax collection for 2005 amounted to only P325.39 billion, or 1.7 percent lower than the P328.92-billion target.

The BIR attributed the lower-than-expected collection last year partly to the decline in earnings by some large companies for the government amid a higher target of more than P400 billion was feasible due to the imposition of the 35-percent corporate income tax rate.

This was increased from 32 percent since New 1 last year under the VAT Reform Law. The VAT law adds to the expanding the coverage of the value-added tax and raising the VAT rate, also increased the corporate income tax rate by 3 percentage points.

The law states that the 35-percent corporate income tax rate will be effective until end-2008, after which it will be brought back to 32 percent by 2009.

The government likewise expects that the proposed simplified net income tax system (SNITS) for individual taxpayers, if implemented, would also help attain the higher income tax collection target.

SNITS, which is pending in Congress, will reduce the allowable deductions for self-employed and professionals and will promote a simplified way of tax payment to encourage tax compliance.

The VAT Reform Law, considered a key measure of the Arroyo administration to address the fiscal problem, is expected to help the government wipe out its gaping budget deficit by 2008.

Imports rose 2% to $44.91B in 2005

THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS ROSE by only 2 percent to $44.91 billion last year due to the soft demand for electronics, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The amount of imports last year partly led to a $3.6-billion deficit in the country's balance of trade as exports in 2005 amounted to only $41.22 billion. The latest trade deficit figure was better than the $4.36 billion recorded in 2004.

Electronics accounts for nearly half, or 46.6 percent, of the Philippines' total import bill for last year. Electronics imports are composed mostly of raw materials used to assemble finished electronics products, which account for majority of the country's exports.

Due to the cyclical slowdown in the global demand for electronics last year, growth of Philippine exports decelerated to 2.9 percent from a double-digit growth in 2004, resulting in the reduced imports of raw materials.

But while the annual imports growth was measly for most of the months of 2005, it accelerated to 21.7 percent in December when shipments reached $3.97 billion, compared with $3.26 billion a year ago.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the accelerated imports growth in December was consistent with the 16.4-percent expansion in imports during the same month.

The double-digit growths in imports and exports in December indicated that global demand for electronics was already picking up.

"Activities in that the ICT [information and communications technology] sector seems to be showing little and now heading to an expansion," he said in an interview.

The government originally set the targets of an 11-percent growth in imports and a 10-percent expansion in exports this year, but the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) is in the process of reviewing its macroeconomic targets for possible revision. The DBCC is the inter-agency body tasked with setting the government's economic policies and targets.

The revision of the 2006 targets could lead to downward revisions considering that similar targets set for 2005 were largely missed.

But Arroyo said the government still expected exports and imports to grow by a higher figure this year than last year's, hinting that the new targets could be better than the 3.9-percent actual imports growth and 2-percent actual imports growth last year.

According to the NSO, imports for electronics in December reached $1.81 billion. The second biggest import were mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials at $934.28 million.

Michelle V. Remo

Uniwide sails

IS THIS COMPANY TRULY under the receivership of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the pride of the business sector?

I refer to the bankrupt bargain retail chain Uniwide Sales, which was THE most popular store for the bargain hunters until the wide-scale fraud committed under the financial crisis of 1997.

From what I hear, seven years of Uniwide went up for liquidation but how much? Well, they need for only P9 million to recall. All covered there—okay!

How in the world can this company pay its debts?

For instance, it owes several banks some P2 billion, among them PNB, which was government-run at that time.

Above all, however, it also owes hundreds of concerned creditors some P1.5 billion.

These poor guys are never hope to be repaid what Uniwide owes them—not even a single

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bernal III

Under the "liquidation" deal, you see, some suits the longer life expectancy today they will all be dead before Uniwide can repay them.

***

EMPLOYEES of the now-owned DBP are calling for the resignation of their boss, Vitaliano Nañagas. (Again? Nañagas, if you recall, was the administrator touted by the employees of SSS.)

Word is that the DBP employees filed cases of graft and corruption against Nañagas before the Ombudsman for his questionable representation expense in 2004.

But in a recent board meeting, in fact, in which Nañagas was absent, his allies took up the cudgels for him. They called for an investigation on how the DBP employees got hold of the memo.

To me, it's like a murder case in which the police investigate the person who discovered the body—instead of the killer.

***

IT'S good though that the CDC already cleared the claims of Nañagas, such as the thick stack of receipts from a Japanese restaurant called Kimpura.

He only claimed reimbursement for 100 receipts, covering one year, assuming that he had to have gone to the place every other day.

How explain this: He submitted eight receipts covering a week, meaning he went to Kimpura twice a day. Apparently, the guy was working for Japanese products in one particular restaurant. Whether the restaurant owners are his friends is not known.

The documents also showed, according to the DBP employees, that their boss purchased "gifts" in the US and in the Philippines on the same day.

What for or two places at the same time?

Incase it escapes the U.S. he claimed to have bought gifts for World Bank and IMF officials, and treated them to [illegible] restaurants.

At least 20 items were listed for reimbursement for gifts, amounting to more than P500,000.

All told, he claimed almost half a million pesos for that one CDC trip.

One of the documents presented to the Ombudsman to support the case was a claim for reimbursement for gifts to World Bank officials.

The gifts were listed as "mementos" for the "officials he happened" to be... well, male. You know as in "men".

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RP, Indon deal on fisheries extended

GENERAL SANTOS CITY — THE PHILIPPINES and Indonesia have formally agreed to extend their fisheries cooperation by five more years with the signing of a memorandum of agreement here on Thursday.

The MOA, signed by Agriculture Sec. Domingo Panganiban and Indonesian Fisheries Minister Freddy Numberi, has paved the way for the continuous use of Indonesian waters by fishermen from this city and South Cotabato.

Panganiban said he has always reason a lot to Filipinos, particularly the fishing sector.

"With an average of total tuna landing in the Philippines of about 400,000 metric tons, the industry is estimated to be valued at about $4.0 billion," Panganiban said.

In this city alone, the fishing industry provides about 300,000 jobs.

Under the agreement, both countries vowed to promote cooperation in the sustainable development and conservation of fish resource in their shared territories.

The government also agreed to enhance mutual consultations with Indonesia, exchange technical know-how, conduct joint research and economic cooperation on agreed areas of fisheries.

Numberi said the specific details of the agreement has yet to be discussed and resolved by members of the Joint Committee headed by senior officials of both countries.

Among the uncertainties issues that still need to be ironed out is the sharing scheme between the two countries. *Agaches Z. Zenen, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nissan recalls X-Trail units

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES INC. YESTERday announced the recall of 4,070 units of its X-Trail sport utility vehicle as part of the global recall involving 873,488 vehicles.

Lennart Lee, company president and chief executive, explained that the voluntary recall was related to the fuel inlet to the gasoline tank, called the fuel filler tube, which may rust at the tube mounting bracket.

A pinhole may result from the rust formation, which can cause a fuel leak during full refueling, Lee said.

But the official clarified that developing a leak from rusting would take between 10 years and 15 years, depending on humidity and other factors.

"In short, there is no real cause for panic over the short term, since the rust develops (after so many years)," Lee said. "However, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. (NMC) has decided to take a very proactive stand toward the issue by making a recall that early."

The worldwide recall affects markets in Japan, Canada, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia/Oceania, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Taiwan and Thailand.

In the Philippines, the recall will affect more than half of the 4,000 X-Trail units sold since the vehicle was introduced in July 2003.

The units covered are those made between July 2003 and November 2004.

According to NMPI senior manager Raymond Tolentino, the compromised units are now completely knocked down kits of X-Trails imported from Japan a month before delivery to buyers.

The official said the recall was expected to affect X-Trail units city. Every household—in short, as to any recall, the public has to worry at first but would soon judge for themselves, based on available information.

Buyers would realize the impact of such a recall and soon sales will be resumed to pre-recall levels, Tolentino said.

"The cost of this campaign will run into the millions of pesos, but that is something that Nissan is willing to shoulder completely for the peace of mind of our X-Trail buyers," he added.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

DISCLOSURES

CHINATRUST (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp. stockholders as of May 23, 2006, will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 2:30 p.m. Details to follow.

ALLIANCE TIRE CORP. listed on Friday 2,000 additional common shares under the company's Random Stock Purchase and Option Plan and 3,324 additional common shares under its Senior Management Stock Option Plan.

Compiled by Jamie Marcos, PDI Research

Del Monte profit down 53% in Q4

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

DEL MONTE PACIFIC LTD. (DMPL) yesterday reported a 53-percent drop in its net profit in the fourth quarter last year to $5.6 million from $11.9 million in the same period in 2004.

The drop was attributed to high oil costs and expenses that offset the 4-percent increase in last quarter sales last year to $66.2 million, Del Monte said in a report to the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Del Monte, jointly owned by Barcelona Inc. of the Campos family and San Miguel Corp., said the slight growth in sales in the fourth quarter last year was due to higher sales of processed products in the Philippines and other Asian markets, offsetting weak sales in North America.

Sales in the Philippines grew 11 percent with strong growth in the tomato-based product segment.

Despite higher prices, margins were affected by higher costs, particularly diesel and energy, which reduced gross profit margin to 22.3 percent from 32.6 percent in the prior year's quarters.

For the full year, Del Monte's total sales, including that of subsidiaries in India and the Philippines, were up 11 percent to $522.9 million.

Currencies

February 10, 2006 Monday	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	55.8000	1.000000	55.8000
Japan	Yen	0.477161	0.008551	0.4771
United Kingdom	Pound	97.1000	1.740250	97.1000
Hong Kong	Dollar	7.168115	0.128464	7.1681
Switzerland	Franc	43.1021	0.772552	43.1021
Canada	Dollar	47.7000	0.854767	47.7000
Singapore	Dollar	33.7421	0.604678	33.7421
Australia	Dollar	42.0000	0.752688	42.0000
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.6753	0.263000	14.6753
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	14.8800	0.266667	14.8800
Kuwait	Dinar	192.8000	3.455197	192.8000
Bahrain	Dinar	147.9000	2.650538	147.9000
Thailand	Baht	1.4000	0.025090	1.4000
Europe	Euro	65.9000	1.181004	65.9000
Italy	Lira	0.034000	0.000609	0.0340
Germany	Deutsche Mark	33.7000	0.603943	33.7000
France	Franc	10.0500	0.180108	10.0500
Argentina	Peso	17.7000	0.317204	17.7000
Brazil	Real	25.9000	0.464158	25.9000
Mexico	Peso	5.1000	0.091398	5.1000
Denmark	Krone	8.8000	0.157706	8.8000
India	Rupee	1.2000	0.021505	1.2000
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.6753	0.263000	14.6753
Netherlands	Guilder	29.9000	0.535842	29.9000
New Zealand	Dollar	38.0000	0.681004	38.0000
Norway	Krone	8.4000	0.150538	8.4000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.9000	0.016129	0.9000
South Africa	Rand	8.0000	0.143369	8.0000
Korea	Won	0.0600	0.001075	0.0600
Sweden	Krona	7.9000	0.141577	7.9000
Sri Lanka	Rupee	0.5000	0.008961	0.5000
Taiwan	Dollar	1.7000	0.030466	1.7000

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Altis E	100,000	9,000	8,000	7,000	6,000	5,000
Altis 1.6 V A/T	100,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	9,000	8,000
Altis 1.6 V M/T	100,000	11,000	10,000	9,000	8,000	7,000
Vios 1.5 G M/T	100,000	10,000	9,000	8,000	7,000	6,000
Vios 1.5 G A/T	100,000	11,000	10,000	9,000	8,000	7,000
Innova 2.0 E M/T	100,000	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	9,000
Innova 2.0 G A/T	100,000	14,000	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000
Innova 2.0 G M/T	100,000	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	9,000
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Innova 2.5 G A/T	100,000	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	12,000
Innova 2.5 G M/T	100,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	12,000	11,000
Innova 2.5 J A/T	100,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000
Innova 2.5 J M/T	100,000	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	12,000

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BUSINESS

Oil firm rolls back gas, diesel pump prices

Other companies expected to follow suit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INDEPENDENT OIL FIRM UNIOIL Philippines Petroleum yesterday announced it had cut its pump prices of gasoline by P1 and of diesel by 50 centavos a liter to reflect the prevailing world prices.

Unioil officials said the price cut took effect at 8 a.m. Friday.

Energy Secretary Raphael Buenaventura Lotilla said his department was expecting other oil firms to follow suit. Officials of the other oil companies, however, said there was no such plan yet.

Lotilla said would-be oil price cuts this month after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' unanimous decision last Jan. 31 to maintain production in the second quarter.

"In fact, international prices are going down, an indication that we could somehow provide some relief to oil importing countries like the Philippines," he said.

The energy chief said the DOE's monitoring showed that Dubai crude prices dropped by 76 centavos on average of $57.68 a barrel in February from an average of $58.44 in January.

MOPS-based diesel prices dropped by $2.22 in an average of $59.92 a barrel in February from $73.14 per barrel average in the previous month.

"Oil prices have increased in the last few months due to several factors such as supply disruptions in Nigeria and concerns about Iran's nuclear project," Lotilla said.

"While the industry is deregulated, the DOE has been constantly appealing to all companies to absorb most costs, and effect increases in prices only if and when absolutely necessary," he added.

This resulted in smaller (though more frequent adjustments in lieu of one-time huge increases corresponding to the upswing in international prices, he said.

In another development, Lotilla said he had instructed all energy agencies to ensure the security of energy installations and fuel supply to avoid any disruptions in the delivery of vital services to the public following President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency.

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Gov't seen offering residual stake in PNB to Tan group

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT MAY EXERCISE ITS option to sell the remaining 12.3 percent stake in Philippine business bank, valued at about P5.5 billion, to the Lucio Tan group after efforts to sell the shares to small local investors failed.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. yesterday said the subscription to the government's offering of 257.7 million shares in retail investors was "minimal." The shares were offered branches. It has now sold P66.1 billion worth of shares to the public.

In a statement, PDIC said the government had an alternative exit mechanism, which is to exercise the option to sell to the Lucio Tan Group its remaining shares by August 2006 at P40.80 per share. This was based on the **par value of P40 per share before the joint bidding of the government's and the Lucio** Tan group's offer to the bank last year, plus a 1.6-percent interest per annum.

"We will exercise our put option unless someone else offers a better price," PDIC president Ric Tan told reporters yesterday.

Tan said that if the bank would post strong profits this year, there might be orders willing to pay a better price for the government's residual stake.

PDIC, the state agency in charge with the bank's privatization, had expected the bifurcate response of the market to the retail offering due to the declining share price of PNB during the offer period.

Investors apparently decided not to buy the PNB shares when they found out that the government's asking price was much higher than the market price.

PDIC controls 9.48 percent stake or 34.36 million shares while the national government directly owns 3.06 percent of the bank or 17.45 million shares.

Although the government had anticipated the poor market interest in the retail offering, it had to undertake the share offer to small retail investors after selling 72.14 percent of its stake in PNB to the Lucio Tan group last August 2005 pursuant to Republic Act No. 7181, 7663 and 7886 (Privatization Laws).

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URC plans to sell stake in sister firm

By David Lozes

UNDERGOING BY THE SUCCESS OF ITS RECENT public offering, Universal Robina Corp. is considering selling its stake in sister firm Robinsons Land Corp. to allow the food and beverage firm to focus on its growing core business.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, URC president Lance Gokongwei said the plan also jibed with Robinsons Land's plans to increase the number of shares readily available or may pertain—the so-called "free float"—to meet market investors.

"The board [of URC] is reviewing plans [of selling the Robinsons Land stake] because of [the market's] recent exception to URC," he said.

URC presently holds a 19-percent stake in Robinsons Land. Both firms are owned by JE Tanmen Holdings Inc., the holding firm of the Gokongwei family. The shares of all three firms are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Earlier this month, the Gokongwei-controlled food company raised P9.05 billion by selling 720 million shares—a combination of newly-issued stocks and old shares from existing shareholders—at P12.5 per share.

Another 95 million shares were subsequently made available to investors as the initial tranche was oversubscribed.

Gokongwei said the plan for URC to divest its stake in Robinsons Land would be carried "in the next 12 months."

"But there's no time duty yet," he said.

The proceeds to be raised from the divestment plan would be used to retire URC's longer-term bonds, after its short-term debts were paid off with the proceeds of the company's share sale earlier this month.

Gokongwei, who also heads Robinsons Land, earlier said the company would increase the profitability among multi-tenant investors.

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Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on March 8, 2006 at 5:00P.M.

HWSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid proposals, waive any formality or defect therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

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Editor Cesar D. Manguerra

Expanding audio entertainment indoors, outdoors

By Charles F. Gaban

THERE WAS A TIME when architects and home planners skip outdoor audio system in the homes they design. For them installing those speakers seem hardly worth the effort as they are vulnerable to the elements and that fact that outdoor sound is difficult—one needs many times the power to achieve the same apparent sound level as one would inside.

But some of the best times at home is spent just outside home—on the patio, by the pool or just in the garden. Having an outdoor audio system will definitely enhance one's outdoor relaxation or parking up outdoor gatherings or parties," said Wilson Ito, president and GM of Hitmix Marketing Corp. (customer service@hitmix.com), exclusive distributor of Bose entertainment systems in the country.

However, Ito admits that while the outdoors may be the perfect setting for music, it is hardly the best environment for speakers.

Consistent delivery

"An outdoor speaker must consistently deliver the quality of sound one would expect from a speaker in homes. This is where Bose outdoor systems have an advantage as each speaker model is engineered and tested to withstand some of the worst that nature can dish out," said Ito.

To prove the worthiness of its Bose outdoor products, Ito informed that the company was recently chosen by SM to equip its biggest mall with Bose's outdoor audio products.

"Where is a place where we can high-light our technology and the worthiness of our speakers...the SM Mall of Asia, the biggest in the region and third in the world, is the right place for demonstration," said Ito.

400-hectare mall

Some 400 Bose Model 16 ceiling speakers will be installed in the common areas of this 400-hectare mall.

These high-performance, ceiling-mounted loudspeakers are engineered for music and speech reproduction in a wide range of business applications including retail, restaurant and hospitality operations.

Bose speakers are further complemented with over 200 wall-mounted Bose Model 32OO load speakers that will be installed in the outside perimeters of the mall's four main buildings.

"We will also install 100 Bose FreeSpace 360 garden speakers in pocket gardens surrounding the entire mall. So one may notice, we will be able to show our clients the different settings wherein a Bose outdoor audio system can be placed," said Ito.

Environmental

Ito added that Bose audio systems are environmental, meaning, while they are designed to provide high quality sound, they can be used in harsh outdoor environments.

"Bose engineers rigorously test their speakers by exercising real-time environmental conditions including rain, heat, ice and even corrosive salt and fog to ensure long-lasting performance. Thus, these outdoor speakers can be placed practically anywhere," he said.

Ito added that some of these outdoor speaker models can be connected to the Bose Lifestyle systems so that the music-based indoors can also be enjoyed outside.

A 300-HECTARE LUSH LANDSCAPE SERVES AS THE CANVAS...

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Brittany CORPORATION

What is sustainable coastal tourism?

COASTAL resorts are often plagued by negative environmental impacts caused by tourism. Some of these problems are badly designed and located breakwaters; wastewater flushed directly into the sea; and beach walls that cause sand erosion.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Armando ale Arnaiz

MODERN COASTAL TOURISM IN THE country and instantly what comes to mind are Boracay, Palawan, La Union, Batangas, Mindoro, Camiguin and the many other coastal resorts. There are many countless reasons to fare, that it's impossible to name them all. With over 18,000 kilometers of coastline on more than 7,000 islands this is hardly surprising.

Unlike some landlocked countries with no direct access to the ocean, the Philippines is blessed in the sense that one is never too far from sea-coastline or coastal resort. This accessibility, which is most ideal and convenient for teams of us, has also prompted the influx of many visitors. Although it has been economically advantageous to the country, this has also brought about environmental and social problems.

Some of these problems range from minor – visual pollution caused by billboards and commercial signs that block or blot natural scenic spots to more complex problems like sand erosion, poor coastal water quality and solid waste being dumped on beaches. Many of the problems are brought about by poor planning and development.

Boracay's problems

Through the years, many have been labelled to their coastal problems until 1997 when Boracay was declared unsuitable for bathing. This shocked tourism and developers in Boracay was at one time considered as the world's most beautiful beach.

The contamination of Boracay was mainly due to untreated wastewater that seeped into the aquifer or flushed into the sea.

Today the government is working on a water system that includes sourcing water from the mainland and a sewage treatment plant.

Highly competitive business

The sad state of development of some of our coastal resorts comes at a crucial time when coastal tourism is becoming a highly competitive business as many countries vie for the attention of visitors bringing precious foreign revenue.

Today, many of these competing countries, stress the importance of sustainable tourism development, being a part of the largest and fast growing activity worldwide, which is international tourism.

Sustainable tourism don't:

Sustainable tourism development means using, conserving and enhancing the resources of a place to allow the ecological processes to be maintained and the quality of life today and in the future is increased.

It was in 1992 when the United Nations defined sustainable development, which means "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Design considerations

The following are some important design considerations for coastal resorts:

- **Green site development.** For site planning, buildings should not be located along sites that are altered by cutting and filling. This means minimizing elevation changes and filling up lower portions of a site. Development costs can be reduced when the existing features of a site are considered and retained.
- **Investment and maintenance costs** can also be reduced if existing vegetation is retained.
- **Shoreline setbacks.** Dwellings and other tourist facilities should be built away from the shore. Many coastal resorts do not follow this basic rule in development. When this rule is not followed, waters are contaminated with surface runoff and structures are exposed to wave and storm damages.

Different countries have different rules regarding setbacks for coastal resorts. For instance, in Indonesia a 100-meter shoreline setback is required from the waterline.

For the Philippines, the Department of Tourism has set a minimum setback of 30 meters from the seaward edge of natural vegetation.

This setback has several advantages. The space between the developed area and the beach can be landscaped as an attractive open space to enhance and complement the view of the sea. It can also serve as a multipurpose area for social gatherings.

- **Water supply.** Water is a crucial element in coastal resorts. It is important in determining if water is available in the area and whether or not it is potable. In most cases, spaces must also be provided for the treatment of wastewater.
- **Building height.** For coastal resorts, building height, which is measured from the ground to the top of the roof, is limited to the height of the surrounding vegetation. For the Philippines and other countries in the region, the height of the coconut tree is used as the height measurements.
- **Cultural and historical sites.** Green design considerations must give due importance to existing cultural, historical and scenic areas in coastal resorts. Some resort amenities are developed when these areas are built near sacred sites, but with proper planning, these sites can be protected and preserved.
- **Green building design.** Dwellings should maximize the use of daylight and natural ventilation. Although some guests require air-conditioning for their rooms, if the guest rooms are properly designed and constructed, they will not be dependent on the mechanical cooling system. Providing adequate roof insulation can also help cut down heat gain that may enter the rooms.
- **On-site facilities.** A very effective way to minimize the impact of dwellings along coastal zones is by using renewable energies such as solar and wind power. By resorting to these systems, coastal resorts can be self-sufficient in their energy needs, especially those in remote areas not connected to the electric grid.
- **Beach erosion.** For coastal resorts, one of the most undermined hazards is beach erosion. One common way that developers use to solve the problem is by constructing concrete seawalls or shore protecting. This system is not effective because it increases the reflective energy generated at the base of the seawall, thus worsening the sand. Eventually, the wall will collapse.

To prevent beach erosion a close study of the site must be made before any work is done. Next, a setback must be established before work starts. Avoid taking sand from the nearby sandbars. After a storm has altered the beach, let the normal beach cycle restore the sand.

- **Success factors.** The success of coastal resorts hinges upon site selection and how well the property is used. This is the only path leading to sustainable tourism.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail armandoalearnaiz@gmail.com

The Mezza Residences: High-rise living at its best

MEZZA is designed as the heart of Metro Manila

FROM THE COUNTRY'S MOST RESPECTED names in retailing and mall development comes a project that will soon be a by-word in condominium living...the Mezza Residences.

Situated at Ayala Boulevard corner Asuncion and Calderon Streets in the heart of Quezon City, the impressive Mezza Residences has four, 28-story residential towers. Offering one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom and suite units with a modern tiny prices ranging from one to five million, Mezza Residences is suited for young professionals yearning for their first taste of independence or starting-out families seeking a place to call home.

Metropolis living

"Mezza Residences is metropolis living at its most convenient," shares Julie Jalandoni, assistant vice president for sales and marketing of SM Development Corp. "Everything one set so needs is right here, from dining to gas, energy and personal time. We really had the lifestyle of today's urbanites in mind in developing this project—addressing as many of their living requirements."

True to its promise of convenience, SMDC will also be constructing a bridge that connects SM Cyberpoint for easy and hassle-free access. "Residents need not cross the street to get to the SM mall," Jalandoni added.

Each tower has three high-speed elevators and three parking levels. A total of 816 covered and open parking slots are available. There is a main lobby to each tower and a welcome lobby on each floor as well.

An individual laundry drying area for each unit and a centralized garbage collection and disposal system are provided for added convenience. Active facilities, spaces, lifestyle are completed with high ceilings and all have picture windows. Also, the two- and three-bedroom units have bay windows, while select units have balconies for a relaxing area with a breathtaking view of the metropolis.

Developed by SM Development Corp. together with land owner Banco de Oro, Mezza Residences allows you to enjoy a wide variety of activities all under one roof. Cafés, service and retail establishments are conveniently located at the Podium to the ground and second level.

"Residents can also enjoy the lush al fresco shopping right here. Young urbanites can dine out and have a good time with their friends," says Jalandoni. "Mezza truly finds its hallmark in the concept of 'Live, Work, Play.' It is a place that puts together in a great package with well-planned floor areas and generous spaces."

Relaxing mind, spirit

Mezza Residences takes pride in its lush greens. Unique to this project is its sprawling 1,000-square-meter lawn—an inviting place where families can have a picnic, play catch with the kids, or take an afternoon nap.

Giving importance to healthy living, a Japanese garden with a meditation area and a reflexology path relaxes the mind and spirit of the weariest urban dweller. Fish can feed under the arch-in-the-bridge pond while adults can rest it by tapping the 25-meter lap pool.

Here at Mezza Residences, it's all about living the city life to the fullest.

Model units are available for viewing at the SM City Sta. Mesa.

Lakeshore Subdivision to be issued a CDO

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Central Country Estate Inc., the developer of Lakeshore Subdivision located on the North Expressway in Silangan, Pampanga, headed by Governor Eduardo Panlilio, Mayor Nestor Mangio, is facing criminal and administrative investigation initiated by the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and the Department of Environment and National Resources.

The records of the case revealed that sometime in November 2004, respondent Central Country Estate Inc. was already selling and transferring the title and ownership of more than 1,000 subdivision lots to its prospective buyers even without a DAR conversion order which is a grave violation of Article 38, Section 7(a) of Republic Act 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1998.

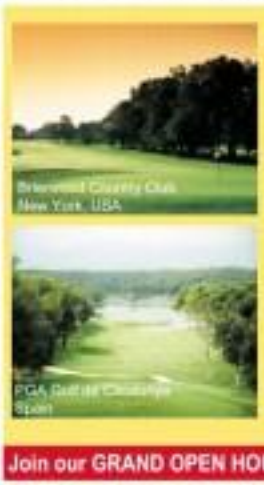
Transfer of ownership

Secondly, the bulk of the property is owned and registered in the name of farmer-beneficiaries because the Department of Agrarian Reform has yet to issue the said ownership of the land to the tenants farmers through the Certificate of Land Ownership (CLOA) and respondent Governor Mangio caused the transfer of the ownership of the land to the name of their corporation even though the 10 years prohibitory period has not yet expired, a criminal and illegal act punishable up to six years imprisonment under RA 3019, Sec.

Initial investigations also revealed that Central Country Estate board of directors told the proposed subdivision project were without a License to Sell from the HLURB, a flagrant violation of Presidential Decree 957, likewise a criminal act punishable up to 10 years imprisonment.

Additionally, respondent Senior Mangio failed to secure a development permit from the office of the municipal mayor of Mexico, Pampanga, and an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR. A Cease and Desist Order (CDO) is poised to be slapped against the further development of Lakeshore Subdivision by the DAR and the HLURB.

Lot buyers of the proposed subdivision project are expected in the coming days to file complaints against Nestor Mangio and the board of directors of Central Country Estate Inc. results.



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Europe's seven clubs include the Credit Only La Toxmarck Golf Course in Mauritius and the Golf & Country Club Frankenau in Germany. Frequent visitors to North America can play in 16 golf clubs with their relatives and friends. These include the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco and The Fox Valley Club in New York.

The South Forbes Golf Club, designed by the International Management Group (IMG), features a world-class, 18-hole golf course. Wise investors get free membership to the South Forbes Golf Club with every lot purchase at the charming South Forbes Villas, the resort-inspired Bali Mansions, and the tranquil Tokyo Mansions.

The free golf membership is also available for investors who purchase a unit at two lifestyle condominium projects: The Esplanade and Golf View Terraces.

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Minimalism, color, lighting provide keys to maximizing condo space

CONDOMINIUM LIVING HAS LONG been the choice of both the young and single working professionals whose search for accommodation and attitude puts premium on how well it can provide the modern conveniences they crave for and how fit it is to accommodate their somewhat hectic lifestyle.

Now, their residential preference will soon be with a change in scene, they are demanding something more—that their space include their families with best giving up the comforts that they have come to enjoy in the place they will call home. Be condo living, according to DMCI Homes, is lately attracting the young couple types who are also with a kid or two and, therefore, have different sets of priorities and needs.

For most multi-dwellers, measuring a 40-square-meter floor area into a comfortable living space for a family of three to four is quite a challenge. But for the DMCI Homes' pool of planners, architects and designers, it is a problem that can easily go away by simply applying these three elements to their designs. These are color harmony, minimalism and proper lighting.

These condo designers find condominium as a no-brainer term. Giving an example of its contrasting shade must be applied to the accent walls, particularly in the living room, shades in varying lightness from the same color will do well by the rest of the unit's scene.

For hardwood and ceilings, however, a darker shade is preferred to draw the eye on the walls instead to create an optical illusion of a wider space.

The painting job is not much evident in a Manhattan Park Residences unit. Its walls are painted cream and the hardboards are done in tan. The same color scheme is followed in the bathroom.

Minimalism is key

The right furniture also makes the big difference between home and condo. It is one's spot. Choose furniture that is both decorative and functional so you will have need for only fewer items and save on much needed space, DMCI Homes' experts advise.

In the combined living and dining area of a Manhattan Park unit, a four-seater table-chair complements the cabinet colors of the accent pieces in sand, thus promoting consistency of the visual character that begins in the living area.

In the bedrooms, bedside tables that double as a study table and drawer fit perfectly as well as built-in cabinets with installed closets and shelves.

At Manhattan Park, it also helps that a separate storage area is provided for every unit at the roof deck of each building. In this area, all other seasonal device that may be recycled again are stored and don't have to compete for space inside the living quarters.

Mirrors and similar pieces of furniture double a Manhattan Park unit are handled by Elegance in Wood.

Lighting is everything

Where applied to the master's bedroom, yellow lighting from bedside lamps give off a warm glow that turns the overall mood in the area from bland to romantic and dreamy.

And collectively in the living and dining area, a low pile lights and floor lamps may be also used to speed during non-occasional relieve a little drama is called for such as entertaining guests.

Maybelle Jack Sandoval, model room, unlike the hyper's special need for a flexible and comfortable space that can accommodate his family without straining his another lifestyle.

For info inquiring and other inquiries, call DMCI Homes at 888-7000 or visit its website at www.dmci-homes.com.

HOMESTARTER BOND AS INVESTMENT OFFER

Ayala Land president Jaime Zobel de Ayala presents the unique features of Ayala Land's pioneering initiative, the Ayala Land Homestarter Bond, during a recent press conference. Flanking him are Ayala Land EVP and head of corporate sales and marketing group Bea A. Mendoza (right) and chief finance officer Jimmy Ferrari. The Homestarter Bond is an investment offer for the middle-range sector and first-time buyer for down payment of monies offered by Ayala Land and its subsidiaries Community Innovations and Avida (formerly LPHI). The BPI Capital Corp. is the designated issue manager of the bond which involves a one-shy investments of P1,000 to P1,000 for three years with a 3 percent compounding interest a year. Those interested may visit any BPI branch or call 845-3695 or 98. The offer period ends on Feb. 28 and issue date is March 1.

Gorayeb new deputy president of Asean housing, planning body

THE ASEAN ASSOCIATION FOR PLANNING and Housing (AAPH) recently elected its new set of officers led by Datuk Eddy Chew Lok Lai as president during its 13th membership meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Elected deputy president was Claude V. Gorayeb, an active individual AAPH member and AAPH vice-president for the Philippines for almost eight years now. He is advisor president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association Cardoza. Chew Lok Lai succeeds the Real Estate and Housing Developer Association of Malaysia, as institutional member of the AAPH Governing Council.

The AAPH general membership is composed of individual, institutional and honorary members from Negara Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Gorayeb is the chair and chief executive officer of Ecoma Development Corp., Concrete Aggregates Corp., Davao Industrial Park Corp., Mco-Agil Corp. and Bel-Air Construction and Realty Corp. He is at present the honorary consul general of the Republic of Djibouti.

Other officers

The new secretary general is T Mahtoran, individual Malaysia member, while the treasurer is Wan Ibrahim Wan Abdullah representing the Malaysian Institute of Planners. The present deans for member countries were also elected.

Over the years, the AAPH has organized activities in line with objectives of benefiting members. They include capabilities in management, seminars, short courses, congresses, symposiums, workshops, town-country dialogues, study tours, visits and consultations.

MAYFIELD Park clubhouse, Daroma and Adams buildings overlooking the swimming pool.

Brittany Bay: The new urban center south of Manila

DINE and delight at The Wharf's cozy restaurants.

A PASSION FOR DETAILS WILL ALWAYS BE the driving force behind building a community. More than just creating a row of houses, it takes a great amount of foresight to bring to life a harmonious master plan that could meet the residents' present requirements while providing room for growth in the future.

This passion for details has been at the heart of Brittany Corp. in all of its pursuits. In soon-to-be-finished Brittany Bay, however, the maverick real estate developer claims supremacy in creating that more unique, high-end property in the country's capital. More than just a master-planned community, the Brittany Bay development is now acknowledged as one of the most popular urban resort nooks of Manila.

A very interesting challenge

"We have always been proud to say that Brittany Corp. builds communities. Much of our success lies in thinking outside of the box and providing creative solutions to what we perceive to call challenges rather than problems. Brittany Bay has been a very interesting challenge for us because we wanted our current reputation to have a means of synergy. The result is an urban resort that truly endeavors to provide a better lifestyle for its residents," said Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano.

BRITTANY Corp. adds flair to the La Posada community with the La Posada pool.

SAN FRANCISCO'S famous piers and row cabins alive with the Victorian home only at La Posada.

While the current theme—San Francisco's architecture and lifestyle—ties the different properties together, the uniqueness of each one is unmistakable. The Hyacinthine Row, for instance, is perfect for couples who are just beginning a family. La Posada, on the other hand, is more spacious and can house larger families to provide greater privacy for its residents. Finally, Vieux is perfect either for singles with a very active lifestyle or for bachelorpads in need of a place to stay instead of repeatedly imposing on their relatives' goodwill, Serrano explained.

"While it takes passion to create a community, it takes devotion to the client to develop an urban resort," said Serrano. "Brittany Bay is a testament of Brittany Corp.'s devotion to the Filipino people. To provide a higher quality of living for our people is the reason we exist. And Brittany Bay is a proof that we are willing to do whatever it takes to continue turning that vision into a reality."

For property previews, call 853-6988 or 856-2888 or click www.brittanycorp.ph.

Unique communities

Brittany Bay is a well-crafted urban center that integrates various unique communities which include: La Posada, a single-detached home and lot-only picturesque bay-windowed and porched, Victorianesque flow, homes reminiscent of San Francisco's famed row dwellings; Vue, and mid-rise condos offering a spectacular view of both Laguna de Bay and Davis Straits; and Vieux, a complex of mid-rise condos with commercial establishments on the first two stories.

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Dealer partnership between MGS, Stone 2000 reaps success

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MGS Corp., a leading diversified construction firm, and Stone 2000, an architectural and finishing dealership, has become a successful team-up strengthening the business performance of both partners in the highly competitive construction supply arena.

MGS has a product range that includes ready mix, the manufacture of premium homebuilding products, housing construction, land development, trading and distribution.

The tie-ups, Stone 2000 is a dealership network with seven stores in Metro Manila, two showrooms in the Alabang and Ortigas Home Depots, and a shop in the Cubao Expo. Over the past 20 years, Stone 2000 has grown from a single marble and stone store, into a dealer of building stones and blocks in 1986, to its current specialization in architectural and finishing product lines since 1999.

Collaboration

According to Stone's chief operating officer Hope Marasigan, in the year 2000 the company started furnishing MGS stone pavers, as well as providing installation and maintenance services for these products.

"Our collaboration with MGS has strengthened our distribution network and increased the volume of our prospective clients, who not only include residential and commercial establishments," says the Stone 2000 executive.

He adds that his company has chosen to carry stone pavers by MGS because of the latter's quality standards and efficiency in meeting the demands of clients. MGS pavers are the result of present innovations involving patented technology for concrete masonry production from Besser Inc. based in the United States.

Known for superiority

MGS pavers and other lines are known for superiority and strength in construction materials in the middle to upscale market for premium homebuilding products. These products are often preferred for use in small to large residential, commercial, institutional, industrial and special projects, by leading developers, architects and contractors.

Aficionados says MGS pavers are suited for their esthetic and functional applications, adding value to construction projects with their durability, looks and maintenance qualities. He says that MGS pavers in Stone 2000 which are most suitable are the Zigzag and Hispania designs, in colors of terracotta, gray, yellow and green. These pavers are widely used in the construction of homes and commercial centers.

For inquiries on pavers by MGS, call 872-2795 and 874-1126 or visit the company web site at www.mgs.com.ph. Interested parties may also call Stone 2000 at 695-1647 695-3096.

SuperCountdown

34 days 21 Tiesta vs Red Kamfi

Super

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Where Art thou?

Super artist-in-residence JASON MOGS' depiction of Rizal poses this question: Where are the people?

Films like Nasaan si Francis? page C2

Spirit of Edsa now? page C2

French Revolution and fat women? page B1

Skulls as pop-culture trend? page B2

Celebrities frolicking in the sun? page C1

I saw our in-store display without seeing the store

"Show me the product, show me the display."

Allan Bandon of General Milling Corporation is one of many other Globe users who were the first to experience the power of Globe 3G since delivery. He uses the combination of video sharing for his company.

"I got the information I needed right on time."

This February, Allan arrived early for a meeting at the Shangri-La Hotel. While waiting for the meeting to start, he searched the latest news from ANC on his phone.

Thanks to Globe 3G video streaming, he got up-to-the-minute prices of commodities just in time for the meeting.

3G

The faster transmission speeds and higher bandwidth of Globe 3G open a lot of doors for new and innovative services that help you in making more informed decisions faster. In addition to video sharing and video streaming, you also have video calling that lets you see and hear who you are talking to as well as fast browsing and even faster downloads for internet surfing and downloading of GRL speeds.

ABS-CBN GMA

Of course, it's not always work for Allan. When event is traffic on the way home, he watches his favorite TV shows on ABS-CBN and GMA. Sometimes, he browses through his favorite websites which range from LYAH Horoscopes to pinoyblue.com.

"Akala rin nila expert ako sa wine."

Once, when Allan went out for dinner with his friends, they thought he was sending out a text message when he was actually connecting to Wine.com. So when it came time to order wine, he didn't just recommend the best region, but the best vintage as well.

"When Globe first introduced text messaging, they set a new standard in communication. With 3G, they continue to raise the bar. I'm impressed."

As the leader in mobile innovation, Globe continues to be committed to making great things possible and enriching the lives of the Filipino people.

sa Globe posible

Francis? Um, Francis where are

Watch Epy Quizon play a dead body and Christopher de Leon play a drug dealer

From page C1

do feel the energy in the film. You feel like they all had fun working together.

But do they expect the mass to respond to this energy? Christopher de Leon thinks so.

"Yes, it's an 'alternative' kind of film, it's different from usual films. But it's a linear story people can relate to. It's the kind of movie where you just sit back, laugh—it's good, clean fun—everybody can get it. I think we sell such audiences. That's our responsibility as filmmakers—to hit the audiences. To make them feel—laugh, cry, whatever. Maybe make them think a little bit."

It's a topic Oreta that allows you to sit back and relax, Christopher says. "I've seen a lot of the new films that have come out, and what happens is the filmmakers are just showing what they can do. They're preoccupied with 'wow-ing' the audiences. But that's not filmmaking e. We're not overhyping here. We're here to connect to the audiences. We're here for the audiences."

Amen. Let's all here be looking for Francis together.

Unico Entertainment, in association with Universal Pictures, presents a Crazy Angle production, "Present 16 Project," which opens nation-wide on March 1

Where is Edsa?

By Pepe Diokno

We've all heard from the heroes and veterans of Edsa. How about a story from someone who wasn't there?

IT'S EDSA TIME! TOO bad it had to fall on a Saturday. Kids from La Salle and Poveda though, congratulations, enjoy your off-days!! Sine, for a lot of us Feb. 25 means two things. One, no school. Two, potential for social unrest, therefore, no school. (We win both ways.)

The 1986 Edsa revolution happened a little over a year before I was born. Me, and people my age, are at the head of what's called the "post-Edsa generation." We don't know what the martial law years were like. We don't know what Edsa was like. Don't get me wrong though, we'd sure like to know.

We were told that the martial law era was a really dark one. But we're stuck in the dark, too.

Yet, we know all the facts about the revolution, down to Ninoy Aquino's birthday. We know the fairy tale story. How Marcos, a powerful dictator, was defeated by the people because they were one.

But it's the end, this is where Edsa like for us. Edsa I has become this obligatory class in our history—a day without school! Edsa I has become a fairy tale, which most of us remove for weird discussions or

ment. When we do this, then I think we'd be at Edsa.

The best way, for me, to commemorate this day is to build an Edsa— anywhere, or everywhere. We don't have to camp out on the streets, but we'll live in peaceful revolution.

Let's live in progress, in unity. Not in a world of disruption—but most certainly not in a world of EO 464s, and calibrated preemptive responses. We should exist for each other, as I imagine you did at Edsa.

Tomorrow is the end of the revolution celebration pomp. But it shouldn't be the end of Edsa, and what it stands for. The 'you yellow ribbons along the highways forever, Let's Taliban,' revivalist set together the most oppressive regime.

I'd like to ask a favor from you who were lucky enough to have felt the joy of revolution. Don't tell us about it. Show us Edsa. A lot of us don't know what it truly was like.

Francis? Um, Francis where are

Watch Epy Quizon play a dead body and Christopher de Leon play a drug dealer

From page C1

do feel the energy in the film. You feel like they all had fun working together.

But do they expect the mass to respond to this energy? Christopher de Leon thinks so.

"Yes, it's an 'alternative' kind of film, it's different from usual films. But it's a linear story people can relate to. It's the kind of movie where you just sit back, laugh—it's good, clean fun—everybody can get it. I think we sell such audiences. That's our responsibility as filmmakers—to hit the audiences. To make them feel—laugh, cry, whatever. Maybe make them think a little bit."

It's a topic Oreta that allows you to sit back and relax, Christopher says. "I've seen a lot of the new films that have come out, and what happens is the filmmakers are just showing what they can do. They're preoccupied with 'wow-ing' the audiences. But that's not filmmaking e. We're not overhyping here. We're here to connect to the audiences. We're here for the audiences."

Amen. Let's all here be looking for Francis together.

Unico Entertainment, in association with Universal Pictures, presents a Crazy Angle production, "Present 16 Project," which opens nation-wide on March 1

Where is Edsa?

By Pepe Diokno

We've all heard from the heroes and veterans of Edsa. How about a story from someone who wasn't there?

IT'S EDSA TIME! TOO bad it had to fall on a Saturday. Kids from La Salle and Poveda though, congratulations, enjoy your off-days!! Sine, for a lot of us Feb. 25 means two things. One, no school. Two, potential for social unrest, therefore, no school. (We win both ways.)

The 1986 Edsa revolution happened a little over a year before I was born. Me, and people my age, are at the head of what's called the "post-Edsa generation." We don't know what the martial law years were like. We don't know what Edsa was like. Don't get me wrong though, we'd sure like to know.

We were told that the martial law era was a really dark one. But we're stuck in the dark, too.

Yet, we know all the facts about the revolution, down to Ninoy Aquino's birthday. We know the fairy tale story. How Marcos, a powerful dictator, was defeated by the people because they were one.

But it's the end, this is where Edsa like for us. Edsa I has become this obligatory class in our history—a day without school! Edsa I has become a fairy tale, which most of us remove for weird discussions or

ment. When we do this, then I think we'd be at Edsa.

The best way, for me, to commemorate this day is to build an Edsa— anywhere, or everywhere. We don't have to camp out on the streets, but we'll live in peaceful revolution.

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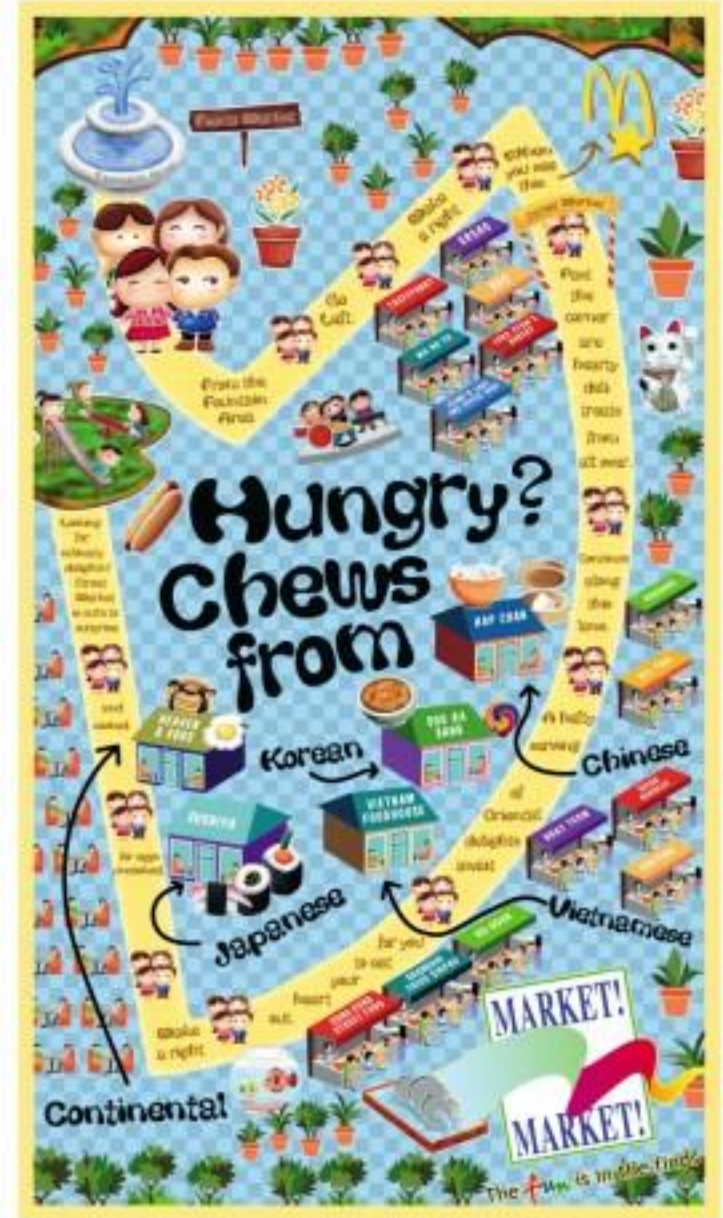
Francis? Um, Francis where are you?



'Hasaan si Francis?' opens March 1! Where will you be?

By Pepe Diokno
Still from the movie "Hasaan si Francis?"

ON MARCH 1, THEATRES will start showing a movie in which Iya Quizon plays a dead body, and Christopher de Leon, a drug dealer. How cool is that? It's not something you'd expect from these actors.

"I want to surprise my fans," Christopher says. "They're used to seeing me as this macho guy, that's in love with this girl, in this movie, I'm a drug dealer but I'm dancing in some parts, dancing with the girls, going wild."

Christopher plays Bobby, to whom Francis owes money. Other characters in the film are Francis' siblings, Mimong Jay and Lia-lia (Richy Eevee and Rita Avila), Francis' girlfriend Ana (Angel Aquino), and Earl Ray—who spends most of the film asking: "Hasaan si Francis?"

All these people are burning Francis down and Bay and Sonny (Paolo Contis and Kiko Estrada) are hiding him. Nope, this isn't a spoiler. We know where Francis is the whole time. What's funny is seeing all these characters interact with each other. When the drug dealer, the druggies, the pursuivers and the guys come together at the end of the film, it's macho.

"This was actually an entry into Cinemalaya. It didn't make it into the finals, but according to Iya, who also produced the film under his company Crazy Angle, Tony Gloria, who was one of the screeners of that festival, saw the film and said, "I'd love to do that." Tony Gloria became executive producer of the movie.

Iya also jumped all over his role—as the dead body, he refused body doubles and dolls. "I told Gabby (Fernandez, the director) that I wanted to do everything myself. But they ran me around where the whole time and at the end of the day, I'd have to bounce, my bones would hurt. This is not an actor's role. It's a stuntman's role!"

Iya also did the project as a promise to the film-firm director Gabby Fernandez was rendered by Pepper Gallaga and Lee Ivena Isis another director. Pepper shares credit with Gabby for the story of "Hasaan si Francis." The film is actually based on the play, "Ulo na si Francis," improvised by the 2003 HRDC batch of the Negros Summer Workshops which Pepper Gallaga handles.

It must be hard, though, for a writer and a director to deal with so many characters with our overbooking any but it looks like Gabby's succeeded in bringing out a lot from his characters. "He's a director who collaborates. He gives you options on how to go about the character. Everyone worked together," Iya explains.

"He's very organized, he knows what he wants. He knows how to eliminate production costs, but still where you see what he's captured you know he did not shortcut anything. A good word to describe him is precise. You feel his youth in the movie that you're seeing," he continues.

Christopher agrees. "Gabby is courageous. You feel his exuberance, like he really wanna re-do the last with every take. Cause sometimes, with an old man, we just say, 'Let's just go there like,' but it wasn't like that with this film, and that inspired me." It's clear he's a true ...you

Super French zen and the art of Fat maintenance

Or how a little cookbook saved me from joining the revolution against all things fatty

Tala Diaz

THE YEAR IS 2006, AND THE people are restless. They are panicking about the very real threats of killer lobs and a slowing metabolism. Thus, a rebellion is brewing against all things fatty and fried. The modern battle of the bulge is upon us! Soon, it shall escalate into a full-scale war against weight gain.

I didn't have to press my ears hard against the walls to hear conspiratorial whispers everywhere. Over coffee, girlfriends divulge their secret weapons in the form of little herbal pills, appetite suppressants and irky-tasting teas. In the gym, guys add a thousand more sit ups to their usual routine in the hopes of trimming down their holiday bellies. At dinners, everyone's discussing about the latest fad diet, whether it's the South Beach Diet or the Boracay Beach Station Two Day old Diet. I even got wind of the ultra-effective Cabbage Soup Diet, a samurai diversity, a coup d'etat carried out in the kabets. All this fat phobia leads me to wonder what is the real craving: carbs or patriotism?

Truth to tell, I used to be oblivious to all this diet dialogue, because I would just not be bothered to skip meals, much less—gasp!—run out rice from my dinner plate! But this disaster-class-then, French fry-loving, floppy Meadhead recently reluctantly joined the rebellion against all things fattening, when I was struck by nerve pinnings that creeped up when I wasn't looking. Blame it on the endless string of holiday revelries, and the fact that eighty percent of the people I know seem to be born in January and February.

The 'Die' in 'Diet'

But I would especially like to credit the unwanted tachycardia of many Pinoys who find no wrong in commenting blatantly about other people's bodies to their faces. Tell me, what is the proper response, other than an open-mouthed, disbelief-struck look, when assailed with a blithe statement like, "Oooogod, lumobe ka!?" (I'm actually whittled down the best snappy comeback in this one line: "Ooooogod, patawagin ba si ?")

So I ultimately jumped on the bandwagon of masochistic resilience against all things delicious and chocolatey in the world, and started to eat like a rabbit. Except rabbits have better food. Mmm ... rabbit ...

Okay, I was new to this whole diet shtick, so forgive me if I erased from the "die" in the "diet." But when you deprive yourself of the most basic pleasures in life—potato chips, icing and ice cream—really, there's nothing much to look forward to when you wake up in the morning. How do people go on living like this?!

With a little help from my own

So just to put something in my system, I decided to feed on something else, something French other than fries. Besides, they seem to have a penchant for revolutions—one before it became the in thing.) I took a detour from my usual fiction gutter and started reading a little cookbook dude-mission that all these chicks have been raving about, called 'French Phrases Don't Get Fat' written by Mireille Guiliano, director of Champagne Veuve Clicquot in Reims. (Of course. Be suspect of this bestseller's no apparent unabashed knock-off's like 'Japanese Women Don't Get Old or Fat,' and 'Mediterranean Women Stay Slim, Too' but that's a whole other story).

Anyway, somewhere between reading about lard soup and baguettes, I started smelling an aroma whose memoirs that had

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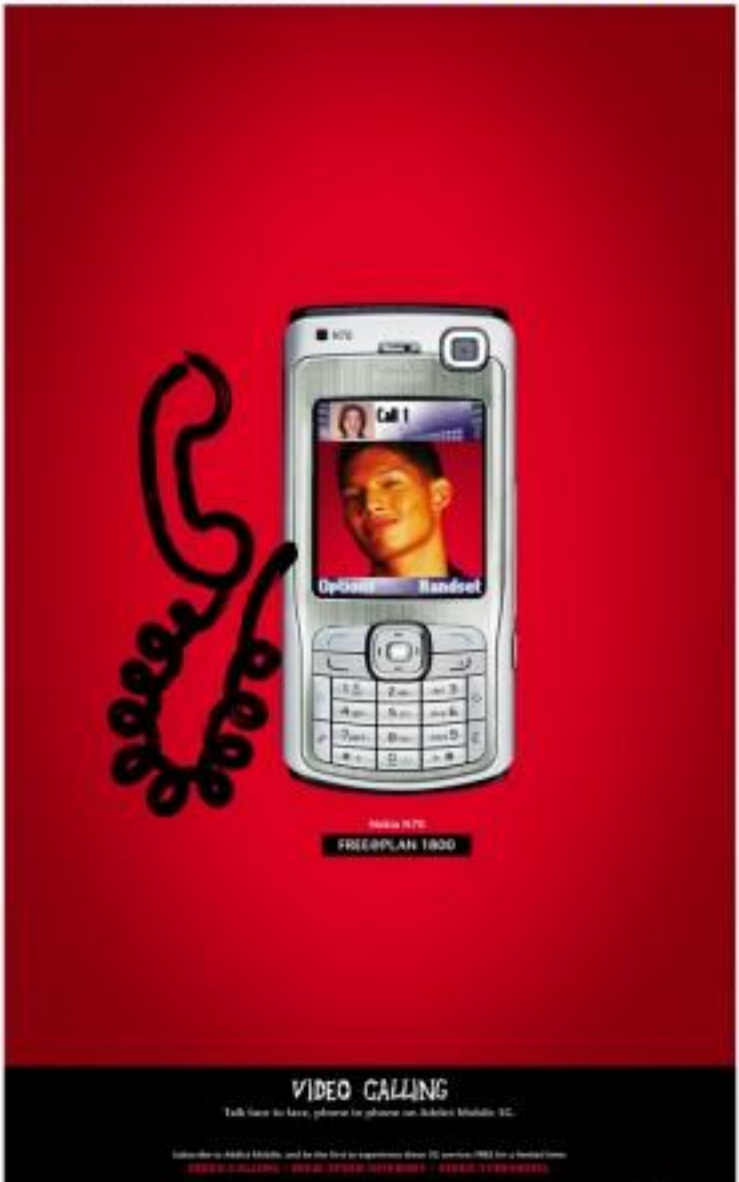

Once a macabre symbol of death, skulls and crossbones now stand for preppy chic. Oh, the irony

Alas, poor Yorick! You're now just a trend.

I WAKE MY WAY UP SNOWBALLER quite—no pressure(s), real-ly—and flipping the bird at our preppier-than-preppy dorm mobs.

I was about 12 or 13 then, attending a somewhat recent private school populated by children with yachts, smothered jocks, and the occasional essence (switch-in-discreetly version of what I've come to call the nouveau high Christian Middle School—as a rule, at that parents-day preview of generic collegiate clothing—you either dressed like a townsupp versus player (red/blue) Lacoste, Abahiti or a bleeding hell think existentialist (anything black, especially trench coats). There was hardly any single room for self-expression. Debris, of course, it was the right (meaning "endorsed by Jesus") kind of self-expression.

From like to love

Yeah, I was a bleeding heart preppie—still am, honestly... but one who was secretly jonesing for a blip of dirt and damage, the kind she more inside-looking kiddie radiated. The attention to that I say illiterate also earned me to be my first designer purchase—a skull-and-wooden-bead bracelet. It has become my jewelry-amulet. Happily married with everything I own for good luck and, I guess, individuality.

More than, I've taken the random evening from like to love, snapping up everything from a skull-and-rose book bag at middle-school-style mayor (Hello) to a pair of skull-print Vans slip-ons designed by underground cartoonist Travis Millard.

See, skulls and crossbones let me be rock 'n' roll while living in Ralph Lauren Land. But that was before Ralph Lauren himself ruined everything. (The Irony Heroes massive donkey balls.) More on that in a bit. The irony, not the donkey balls.

Darn bag of bones

The skull, apparently, didn't start out as chic. It started as symbol of—duh—death, it has been given more developed connotations in several different areas of the world.

Before Columbus reached shores in America, for example, the skull was given an honored place in the religious symbolism of the Aztecs. To this day, their descendants, whether Indian or of mixed European and Native American heritage, continue to honor human bones during the national Day of the Dead. Hindu Rishis, some pre-Aryan tribes you will be worshipped.

In Nepal, the use of skull beads on malas is still common. Hand-carved from jade bone and made with 108 beads, they can be used either as prayer beads (mouth like counter) or as meditation. Hopefully malas have also become popular among devotees who worship the goddess Kali or the god Siva. (Dhirendra, I bought similar beads along Melrose Avenue; not knowing what they were for, just because I thought they were, like, rad. Anyway.)

Boo, y'all

But among tons of European, the skull is more spooky than spiritual. The skull-and-crossbones combo, known as the Jolly Roger (more flag, already had several versions by the 1700s, Some had a full skeleton holding a sword or no bones just at a heads up to the pirates that time was running out or something.

In the case of Edward Teach, a.k.a. Blackbeard, an 18th century marauder who killed the hardest in 1718, the Boyal Navy beheaded him and mounted his skull on their ship. And when the Nazis added the "death head" to their uniforms circa 1932, Abel Gibson, a.k.a. Hamlet, claimed one up, a dude for me by known as Boris in the 1990s.

These days, though, skulls, skeletons and bones have been tamed altogether, and are normally seen about during Halloween. Or New York Fashion Week. (Which surely brings me back to my point.

Skeletal style

Once morbid and kinda gnarly, the anti-establishment skull sign is vastly trendy-tight now, hedging by the rooms wholesaler of puns that this fad has brought us. Are upgrade from guilt to glitter would go in many directions.

On the one hand, adopting this skeletal style can be a stroke of genius if it came from an artiste with a super sense of humor. Known for his rebellious streak, designer Alexander McQueen is said to have popularized skull chic. In 2001, his skull-print scarf was photographed on starlets like Gwenn Miller and Liv Tyler.

Wiley hunter Lauren Pellet-Pinet's $2300 skull-print cashmere sweater are also one-offs. In fact, the French label has collaborated with Jacob "The Jeweler" Arabo to create its new version of hip-hop bling. Using his trademark skulls and sawadee leaves, Pellet-Pinet has produced two watch models with spooky rubber straps and diamonds, including five menus. The price of the tact? a cool $100,000.

Your home can embrace its inner goth as well. Skulls are giving tradition al home furnishings a jolt, appearing on fat-manly teddy pillows and mirror lighting as Lucite paperweights.

Kiss of death

On the other hand, skulls and crossbones are becoming so popular that even unlikely designers are weighing in on the trend.

Ralph Lauren's flagby line boasts many bones: Bone is grosgrain, splashing the image on oxfords, caps, notebooks, pants, leather jackets, ties, sneakers and, of course, rugby shirts. Maybe it's a not-so-subtle nod to Skull & Bones, Yale's super WASP-y secret society in which Penelope George '91 Bush belonged.

I'd be totally thrilled had I not stubbornly used the back of my own rugby shirt with a skull-force pearl ages. But I did, I was five and more, I feel swallowed. Regrettably, it's about to explode most, becoming sweatshirt and widely available to bottom-holding students and garish tabletseasons. (Strip Ellison sources skulls throughout her Chick line. Boo.) I tell you, it's the law of death.

An about-face?

Steeped in the conservative litrals of ingenuous and arrogance, the skull motif used to be a unique and under-the-radar way to inject good old-fashioned punk rock into our outfits. But all the buzz surrounding something I thought I only shared with a clandestine few has blurred the symbol's originality.

Now that the preppy orthotype I used to distort has co-opted the same imagery with which I distorted it, my world has become a weirder place. Even women have become acceptable accessories, as anything seems subversive anymore. If, like me, you, too, want to elevate your kit with radical aspirations, what would you do? Being normal, it seems, is the new rebellion.

BAROQUATRY. Phil Gibson and Shakespeare's take on skull chic

HALLELUJAH! Hipsters skull-toed necklaces, boxers or wallet

HIGH-END GOTH. Lucien Pellat-Finet's skull-print shirts

TARDIS IKEA BONE. My 1-year-old cannonball rugby shirt from Canada

You nurtured her for months but could lose her in just 48 hours.

ipd

Ask your doctor about it.

French zen

From page D1

little to do with losing weight. In fact, it had more to do with a healthy mindset more than a skinny-ass frame. The author called it "French Zen," or finding that balance between willpower and pleasure. Some quick hints to this one:

- There are no quick fixes

In this insta-noodle century, everybody wants overnight results, which explains the popularity of fad diets. Other than insane weight loss, that goes for instant success, love and fame. But nothing of value in life happens in an instant, the things that are truly of worth need the essence laughs, effort and time.

- Luxury will go a long way toward compensating you for those things you miss—you will actually find yourself not missing them so much. Rage against "gastronomic boredom" or "boring catering," and opt for experimentation and improvisation. Good for your diet, spice for your life, and thereby is a powerful decision, one that gives you control and is something exciting for a change.

- "Tout est question d'equilibre."—Everything is a matter of balance. This is the quintessentially French mantra that says no to extremities. "Non, it makes sense to let the matter of both your nutritionist and bathtub in order.

- "Dites dans ce pour," meaning to be "comfortable in one's own skin." If we constantly live with other people's standards, then we'll never be happy.

- "Dieter is no substitute for joie de vivre." Truly, there are so many other things in life that are far more important than obsessing about weight gain, like love, laughter, and, um, table celebration.

Now there's some food for thought, which eventually curbed my pressing mania for dieting and fat-watching. Come to think of it, maybe my obsession with weight issues seems a bit ... unsettling now. Because when it starts controlling you, or taking over every damn conversation in the dinner table, bar, or water cooler, after a while it does cease to grate little.

And when you think about it, we're so damn all about extreme makeovers, but seldom do we ever think about a little into-the-wardrobe for a change.

C'est tout, non pas me dans French fries?

Relationship Rookie? Read On!

By Miss Tsang
Super contributor

A SELF-CONFESSED RELATIONSHIP cacophyte posed a rather intriguing question. After much thought, the question framed itself into various scenarios. "What changes happen when boy and girl finally take their relationship to that level where they are finally IN an exclusive relationship?" It made me really think.

I'm not a relationship maven. What's even tricky is the fact that I've not been conscious of how I've morphed from one stage of the relationship to another. So there, now I am, just trying to make sense of things myself. Sitting under those rose-tinted glasses, I dare to venture into this query, hopefully to enlighten other affair amateurs out there.

1. You will encounter a lot of worrying.

When you love someone, it becomes second nature. You just turn into a big, fat, worrywart. You can't help it. If you want to have a clearer picture of this, think Mum. But I digress. You'll be besieged by questions like 'What if the car she's driving home gets rear-ended by a 10 tonner?' 'What if he's really late? He's about to eat his detailed portfolio of eggplant bits that gives him an allergic reaction resulting in that awful, hacking cough? Has she noticed that that the tall beach guy is actually becoming "too friendly" with her? And that lady guard? I'm he noticed how much whiter her teeth have been. We have a guardian what it's. We've all been there and yes it felt logical then as much as it feels silly now. Well, we had that hyper's someone has no counterpart in love land. Once you've thought it, it 'festers and then you wonder why they fit just one color for jealousy when you see red and feel blue.

2. You will be broke.

And you thought the expenses ended when you were a—courting? Uncharted, what you're in for the love of your love: you just plan, collaborate, scheme and cook up ways to be with her, make her feel special, and this ultimately leads to making you feel good. The dinners for two have just ramped up somehow to cuisine for two. Now, you may be footing the bill but take heart. Whoever we have their share of things they get broke on. These include the slew of bread-area candles, the perfumes that accompany the new pop ice pumps that you bought by the dozen and maybe even the cinema or seminar you signed up for at the gym to maintain the whistle-butt figure that you know he just goes ga-ga over. Different genders, same-for-boat line.

3. You will have disagreements.

You are now adjusting to each other's unique rhythm. This is not to say that you have both just your love but forward clumsy pro together phase. It's just that your expectations are at a different level now. The good thing about fighting though is that it really helps you understand your partner better. This does leads you to understanding yourself better which, by the way has never been a bad thing. Another perk when you fight wouldn't be making up. We said making up and not making out...okay?

4. You will feel differently about the world.

I can't articulate it any better than that. When you are in a relationship, you will feel that you are part of one invincible team just owing to take on the world. This is this big world we all call home, there is that one person you can run to for anything. From buying spoilt plugs to taking out the same stain from your favorite shirt. You take wake up with the jolting sensation at the break of each day, knowing that you can talk to someone about the mundane details of your day and they're genuinely interested. You feel a connection with someone and to be honest, I know of no better feeling than to share another human being that you give one nod to.

It's not out to preach the virtues of coupledom. It's just that I feel that in today's world when you have seminars that teach sex to toughen up, assert yourself and be the captain of your destiny there seems to have been a loss of emphasis in vulnerability. And for one to be in a loving relationship it is key that you leave a soft spot that another person can use as the entry way into your being. At the end of the day, vulnerability really shows that we have become so courageous that you are not afraid of anyone or anything but will push yourself through.

To individuals out there who are on the verge of getting into a relationship or contemplating venturing into one, I just have this to say. As in any relationship, responsibility is key to its success. We've all heard it before and still to say that it still holds true even in this age of play-stations and sonic-jet flights. It is best to be fulfilled as an individual than look to another person to fill in that vacuum inside of you. If you approach a potential boyfriend-girlfriend relationship this way, we have one more recipe for disaster. What even works better is having a full and rich-pale-loaf life that will see her you well to your faith. After all, a relationship is one of the way gifts that GOD brings to you that truly tests how you have grown in His spirit. A relationship becomes a manifestation of how your values have developed, be in the context of love, people out there may be in that emotional—that "she should-I-stay-or-should-I-go" phase. Be still. A number of revelations come when you attain calmness to the whispers of your heart... you wonder to see your head after you give six times over.

POSTNUP — BY BILL MINEO

A LITPA — BY EDSA ABRERA

MARVIN — BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAUL JUNIOR

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

ATOMO AND NYBOY — BY LIRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANALING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

THIS WEEK'S THEME: this sun shenanigan. You're a generous individual who is inspired by great causes. You're very devoted to whatever you believe in. So you, given-ables, are become more philosophical. In your words, however, you're quite a strict but wacky for a humanistic soul ahead. It could be one of the best years of your life!

Birthdates of: Steve Austin, actor / Georges Clemenceau, statesman / Steve Carell, comedy actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might find yourself on cloud nine tomorrow. Don't worry about this. It's a temporary state. Avoid the pressure to make any big decisions on your horizons. It's probably just a feeling that will be gone in a day or two.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Reflection with your favorite figures, especially with your parents, might look a bit hazy today. The best solution should be postponed. Things look comparatively difficult on Monday. (Whew!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't be surprised to see your ex-boyfriend or girlfriend at your door tomorrow. Your heart will be open to him/her. Be honest with this feeling pattern in whichever form.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's might be best to stay in bed today. Told you not to see the former enemy cheats, but he was quite good. "Pass" was a cause of denial. I know you, don't waste your time!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today you feel accustomed to someone close to you. Your feelings could be hurt. Be honest with this feeling pattern in whichever form.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Authority figure and parents are a great and positive day's work. Don't be afraid to be northern weight, reminisce you. Your instincts you felt the reason for it go. There's no good so you were wrong.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel weighed down by the responsibilities of the day. Be patient of children, or dealing with young people or various stress-producing duties. This is a temporary (mostly) feeling, just be today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't let it get to you. Be honest with yourself. Be all more serious than others, especially those closest to you. Have to confront it, try not to lose heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's very hard to see what's going on with you, especially siblings and relatives. Unless single, don't get in a bad mood. Quiet worry—this feeling is gone by tomorrow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): There's a lot of pressure on you to be the dark side of things today, especially with your financial and power issues. You don't feel as good. There is an emergency-related feeling.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today is a good day to be your style. You're good. However, a ignorant show. Today's the day to be on guard. That's why you feel cooperative and relieved by tomorrow, you feel completely different.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone's concerns confirm your worst suspicions about your relationship. Don't give this gloomy stuff another thought. You might be between easy for tomorrow.

DAILY CROSSWORD

MISREKOSMOS — BY JOHNIE TEGIO

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ABRERA

LONGSHOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGKID

TULDOK — BY RAPLAND TATOY HILAMBUNG

THE PHOTOGRAPHER, THE MAKEUP ARTIST AND THE STYLIST: Mark Nichio, Kreg Tolentino and Gardee Alegre

HOT SHOT: La Pinay, Tina Tinio

THE OTHER BIRTHDAY GIRL: Star Jennard's Tessa Dragon

SIZZLING STATEMENT: Clara Sevilla

HOT HIS: Birthday boy Calvin

WONDER BOY AND WONDER WOMAN: JR Rodrigues and Jovy Moal

What's your statement?

Text and photos by David Milan

Where: Jong Zulueta's Birthday bash at Embassy Super Club

Who: Friends and comrades in the industry

Wear: Statement Tees

Everyone dressed down to greet our birthday girl with a whole lotta statement. From ones like "Diary of a pure beauty," "Tim Yap Production," "Mahuhay!", "I rock Manila," "I'm a virgin," "Hated. Off." "Milan" (ahem, ahem), "Wanted: Tall, Rich and Handsome" to "Hahaha!"

It was a night definitely filled with drinks, laughter and people looking at each other's shoes... then, looking at each other's tees.

So, what's your statement?

MABUHAY! sing-sings shopping-ed Gee ready for Jenni Epperson's beach cover-ups, coming this summer from P&H

STATEMENT BROTHERS: DJ Mumbo and Bryanboy love each other

COSMO CHICKS' SECRET MISSION: Jenne Evangelista and Jackie Arnaiz

RANCH BOY: Mario Antonio

Supersnoop!

P. Sniffy

Six degrees of chismis

From a Pinoy Big Brother secret to the best crispy 'pata' ever

WITH THE SUCCESS OF "Brokeback Mountain," forward thinking societies all over the world have been throwing "Brokeback" parties, with cowboys, and all, in full regalia indulging in knockouts (Oh my gosh, sexy!).

In our shores, some people still get queasy when they view the film, labeling it as "too gay." Really, it's just a love story between two people, it's just that they're wearing cowboy hats. And one of them is female.

Speaking of females, a friend swore sources says that somehow this week, Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity edition will unveil a big "Brokeback" scene.

Brokeback... brother!

For the first time in Philippine television history, a closeted gay celebrity will unveil it all. So what's the big deal? Well, aside from those days, it's always the gay. What's revolting is pretending NOT to be when YOU ARE.

Another person who is said to be riding the Brokeback wave is Jericl Pitt, who is reportedly looking for a guy-mate. We wonder what Angelica thinks about that. Although we're pretty sure she has a lot of other things on her mind—with a Bin Laden quote on the way.

No more Tara-Kac!

Another Hollywood baby feud's due to arrive in Tomkat. Is Tom Tres Cruise and Katie Holmes' mom to be too busy in their bubble against Uri, a Tarkac baby to think about his birth? Or worse, The magazine has been persistently printing cover stories on the couple's unloved child. And the two have been predicted to destroy it.

As if Theodosia Ivri' weren't enough babies—there's also Gwyneth Paltrow's—is there no new circulating Hot Britney Spears story to be pregnant again.

Yikes.

Sex videos—this time without Paris

Then there's Bid Rock. Kid Rock who has repeatedly been criticized because of a sex video that has been in existing online. Oh yes, Kid Rock is very angry—he might even sue.

It seems that all those celebrity sex tapes have inspired someone to follow suit. What kind of world are we living in? Last Thursday's top Technorati search was "Tommy Hill," referring to a disgraced ex-Abercrombie reboot and ex-crew supposedly stole her phones and uploaded dirty videos of her online. Why did she have them in the first place?

A very angry Oprah

Speaking of highly downloaded clips, did you see the one where Oprah chased James Frey, the author of "A Million Little Pieces"? Oprah was fuming mad because she felt he James Frey's lies. In one of her shows, she unleashed his supposed memories of drug addiction, saying it kept her awake all night. She even wanted to set an Oprah's Book Club selection making video of the book shredded. But James had fabricated the story and fictionalized his past to sell books. Sell books he did. Make Oprah mad he did too.

Kelly vs Simon, Donald vs Martha

If he could turn back time, would Simon Cowell be so nice to Kelly Clarkson as he was during American Idol's first season? Accordingly to numerous websites, the Al judge ripped into Kelly after she refused to do the rookies, most of All's new season sing her songs. Simon reportedly said, "Remember how talented Bob Clarkson is, she would not be in the position she is now without winning this show... I don't like when they walk away from the show and kind of forget the people who put her where she is today." Kelly has since reformed—now contestants can sing her songs. Whoopee.

Speaking of snow bullies, Donald Trump and Martha Stewart are having it out over their own versions of The Apprentice, but no one really cares, right?

Eat this

In other yummier news, LUCE is now open for happy hour. You can now enjoy the best crispy pata ever and half-price drinks from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Check out their new menu items—Calamares, Sulpicio, Shrimp and Mongolian Sausage, Chicken Adobo Mahon and more. Visit Luce at Jupiter Street, Makati.

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NIVEA VISAGE '06

A Bohol-icious trip to the sun

Tim Yap

I NORMALLY STAY OUT OF THE sun whenever I go to the beach. I take this time to rest and wake up during sunset to savor the night's activities. But this trip was different. The games, celebrities, and activities were just too tempting—I couldn't resist.

The annual Nivea Visage Celebrity "free in the sun" is hands down the longest running celebrity and media gathering this sunny side of town. Now on its fourth year, it has been to Isla Negra, Zambales, Subic and Boracay. This year, it was Bohol's turn.

Personality hunters at heart, we jumped at the chance to join the Nivea Visage Celebrity "free in the sun" in Bohol. Not only because it was a free trip to the province, but also because it was a chance to see the country's most beautiful people in one place.

WOLF IT UP. Andrew Wolff trains it up

The annual Nivea Visage Celebrity "free in the sun" is hands down the longest running celebrity and media gathering this sunny side of town. Now on its fourth year, it has been to Isla Negra, Zambales, Subic and Boracay. This year, it was Bohol's turn.

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This fourth year ranch saw super model Nivea's favorite sweetheart and TV actress, broadcaster and print journalist and the country's favorite outdoors as in we welcome Bohol!

The minute you step inside the halls of the Sinagtala Island Resort, a sunny Nivea vip greets you with your preferred massage/booking and a choice of a colored jersey to represent your celebrity game team. The teams were divided into white, blue, yellow and orange.

I skipped the first day and decided to sleep. With enough rest to prepare my competitive streak on the second day, I chose to be on the blue team, lead by capable, if not more competitive Kristi Lopez. I would have joined the "team fun" team of Iza with Jessie but she left on the second day. Besides, Blue King, the lady who has made Nivea number one, was on our team. The Orange Team was intimidatingly filled with giants, while the Yellow Team was composed of party people.

The White Team represented Nivea's "whitening" products while us, the Blue Team, did under the deodorant category. Why? I don't know.

Second day fun!

From the minute I woke up, it was nonstop

A BOHOLICIOUS E2

Nivea's Sunn, Marlen Nuñez and Bea King

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SUN CELLULAR

Everything Anywhere's Under the Sun

MISS MACHETE: Gamby Ventura and Bert Hip

KINGDOM COME: Bianca King and Patrick Garcia

KISS FILES: Annaverdine de Rossi and Jeremy Marquez

CUPID'S IN WHITE: Bianca Carlos and Sandra Nuevo

'JUST FRIENDS': Rica Johnson and John Estrada

LOVE TO LOVE: Alella Mayer and Jose Marquez

A Bohol-icious trip to the sun

NIVEA VISAGE '06

BOY BANG: John Estrada, Ronald Ramos and Jansen Yllana

SWEET Libations: Bianca Subonga, Trish Andres, Ricky Fernando-Montenegro, Rica King and Yvonne Olson

THE REAL WINNING TEAM: Rica King and her Nivea girls

A SIGHT IN WHITE: Margaret Wilson

The annual Nivea Visage Celebrity 'fun in the sun' is hands down the longest running celebrity and media gathering this sunny side of town

Arts on page 8>

sun—oops, it did rain quite a bit, but that did not stop our spirits from partaking in on the fun.

Remember we were a bunch full of artists, artistes and musicians who all have huge egos. This time though, egos were placed aside and all was done in the spirit of fun, fun, fun!

There was a harsh tug of war (not so easy as it sounds!) and a water polo match (where I twisted to score ALL the goals—tried being the operative word). The swingers in power bars to charge up into the action. Talk about amp-ed!

I still can't forget when Antonio Aquitania tried to drown me in the shallow waters—but then again, we won the championship for beach water volley ball. And the treasure hunt, which was the hardest (and most fun) part of the journey.

NIVEA Bohol!

Bohol is special to me in more ways than one. Ever since Ben Zobel Jr. took me on a heritage preservation tour of the place, I have fallen in love with the city famous for its sweets and the Chocolate Hills. This eldest-themed party night, Bohol's pride, the Loboc Children's Choir, serenaded all of us with their gift of song.

Collective gasps/oohs and ooh-ahs and chorus of awes when the awards were given out. We got second place! With 2.5 points behind the fellow Team, the 1st place champion Cebuan Jerry Blanquera's gesture of donating the prize money to the Loboc Children's Choir as all of us did the same.

The night ended (actually it never ended until we left our private beach in Mirador with Bohol Star Peanuts, endless bottles of Mico and Mojo Vodka, plus great company, lots of laughs and celebrities showing their manners and letting their hair down.

From where I sat, I stared out into the beach. The giant signage of NIVEA B-O-H-O-L in lit up the place, almost like a premonition of a bigger adventure next year.

NINA'S ANGELS: Nonie Flores, Bubbles Paraiso and Angela de Leon

TEAM NIVEA: Marlen Nuñez and Douglas Quijano

FISHER FUN: Ryanko Muñiz

PARADISE FOUND: Paolo Penalosa is surrounded by a loving lady boy

WOLF WHISTLE: Andrew Wolf Nuñez II

WICKED TOY: Lola Alcindy sings "Live"

BABY JAY: Watch out for Jay Aquitania

CHICK MAGNETS: Kayla Lhor Santiago shows he's the cutest

BOHOL BATCH '06: Cindy Go and James Ong

BABY LOVE: Marcie Nuñez and Angela de Leon

HUNKY TONK: Antonio Aquitania at the after party

PHILIP and Fran in high spirits

SUN SAIL: Lifestyle Asia's white lights

HAIR MUSE: Marcelle Cuerdo

KUDO CELEBS: Rona Gallardo and Gamby Ventura

SWEET Pair: Bubbles Paraiso and Mitch Lopez

TEAM SPIRIT: Philip Co-Unjieng, JR Rosa and Kevin Calderon

BEACH BABES: Michelle Madrigal and Rina Johnson

WINNERS ALL: Jason and Ki Ki Lopez with Chad's sister Vicky Montenegro

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Throwing a party?

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DPC YELLOW PAGES

From page B4

page and showed her pictures of the other shoes. Our team, my cousin, boyfriend and I were whipping up a midnight snack (egg and fish balls—what a combination) and I used the BlackBerry to check a recipe for Tahboli sauce. I almost burned the sauce but that cannot be blamed on the gadget.

Texting an intense evening for Quirky's Clown Tree bit, we used the BlackBerry and logged on to Chikkbrooky.com to look for its branches. And while we were in Negrito, Google searches made with the BlackBerry helped us find a good hotel.

The BlackBerry settled arguments as well—including one on how the late great Peter Bogdanovich began his show biz career. And whenever we winds movies and start wondering where we had seen this or that actor before, a quick Internet Movie Database check was all it took for our minds to be at peace again.

There's no doubt about it, the BlackBerry became a great friend, a constant companion. Thanks to this e-mail, phone and Internet capabilities, I felt so connected, like I had the whole world in my pocket. There were even mornings when I'd wash out for a few, completely ignoring my mobile phone.

Still, just like in any love affair, there are little things that I wish I could change about the BlackBerry. For one (I really say good buddy), I think it's an excellent tool but I wonder how left-handed users would adjust to it. And I would really much rather have the AS QWERTY keyboard which features individual buttons for every letter instead of the SureType keyboard which has QWERTY-style layout but has two letters sharing every button.

My laptop's back, I've said goodbye to the BlackBerry and now it feels as though there's a big gaping hole in my pocket. I experience withdrawal symptoms—they sweep in when I least expect it. When I'm watching a movie and I see a familiar face that I can't place, when everyone is trying to figure out where we'll eat, when I feel the need to check my e-mail and I'm in the middle of nowhere. Traffic-plagued cab rides will never be the same again.

For inquiries regarding GlobeSolutions' BlackBerry units and service, e-mail globesolutions@globeol.com.ph or phone toll 7282999 (landline) or 2199 using your Globe Handyphone.

E-mail the author at jpsauter@inquirer.com.ph.

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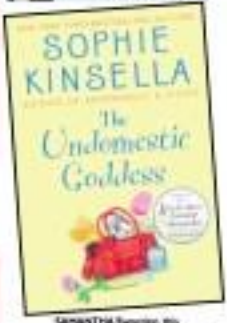
(hallway towards Landmark entrance)
Ayala Center Makati



SAMANTHA Sweeting, this book's heroine couldn't part with her Blackberry for a single second.

SUPER SELECTIONS!

A second helping of Blackberry cheesecake

By Pam Pastor

I TALKED TO HER THAT I WAS SURE TEXT brought me and the Blackberry 7100g together. The evening was just too perfect.

How do you explain the fact that just like the last time, the unit arrived while I was in the middle of reading a book that put the almighty Blackberry in the limelight?

Last year it was Meg Cabot's "Every Boy's Got One" which saw Blackberry messages to tell parts of the story.

This time, it was Sophie Kinsella's "Undomestic Goddess." The book begins with hardworking heroine Samantha Sweeting trying to relax as a spa. But her workaholic tendencies lulled in and she used to sneak her Blackberry into the massage room. I laughed at how crazy she was, trying to send e-mails while hiding the unit under her towel. I had no idea that I would be her (copy) cousin of days. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The Blackberry also came during a time when my beloved laptop, my 3-year-old Compaq Presario 2545, decided to put itself in a coma and may down. You can say that for the next few weeks, the Blackberry was the key to this e-mail junkie's sanity.

Just like the 8200, the 7100g lets you receive your e-mails anywhere, anytime without having to sit in front of a computer or carry your laptop around. Globe's Abreo thing helped make sure that the unit would automatically receive all my Gmail e-mails. And unlike your normal GPRS-capable mobile phone, the Blackberry pages less your e-mails come in like text messages would.

But the 7100g does not stop at just plain old e-mails.

With its high-resolution display which supports over 65,000 colors, you can now open photo attachments and change your unit's wallpaper.

Here's an easy one: the 7100g for phone and e-mail functions. It also has a web browser so you can surf your favorite websites.

The Blackberry 7100g has a number of other features including an address book, a calendar, a memo pad and a task list. It is equipped with a speakerphone and Bluetooth capability for headsets and car kits and has a 32 MB memory.

"Techno love ended up Papers... Just for me, the greatest measure of a gadget's value is how it becomes a part of your everyday life. And the Blackberry became a big part of my life—at least for a few weeks.

Thanks to the Blackberry, I was able to approve blog comments and Friendster requests no matter where I was. Cab rides flew by quickly and the horrible traffic became my friend—it gave me more time to read my favorite websites. I tried testing the Blackberry's capabilities by loading really heavy pages—blog pages, Gmail's photo-heavy blog and Steve Pilhover's gossip-heavy blog but they loaded quickly. The Blackberry grew up on only one site—Pink a the Town Blog which—really is unreasonably heavy. Even my computer browser has a hard time loading that page.

The Blackberry became a big conversation tool. One day my friend's parents were watching my shoes and instead of me telling her about Edsa's latest collection, I opened their Multiply

Techno-lust is sweeter the second time around

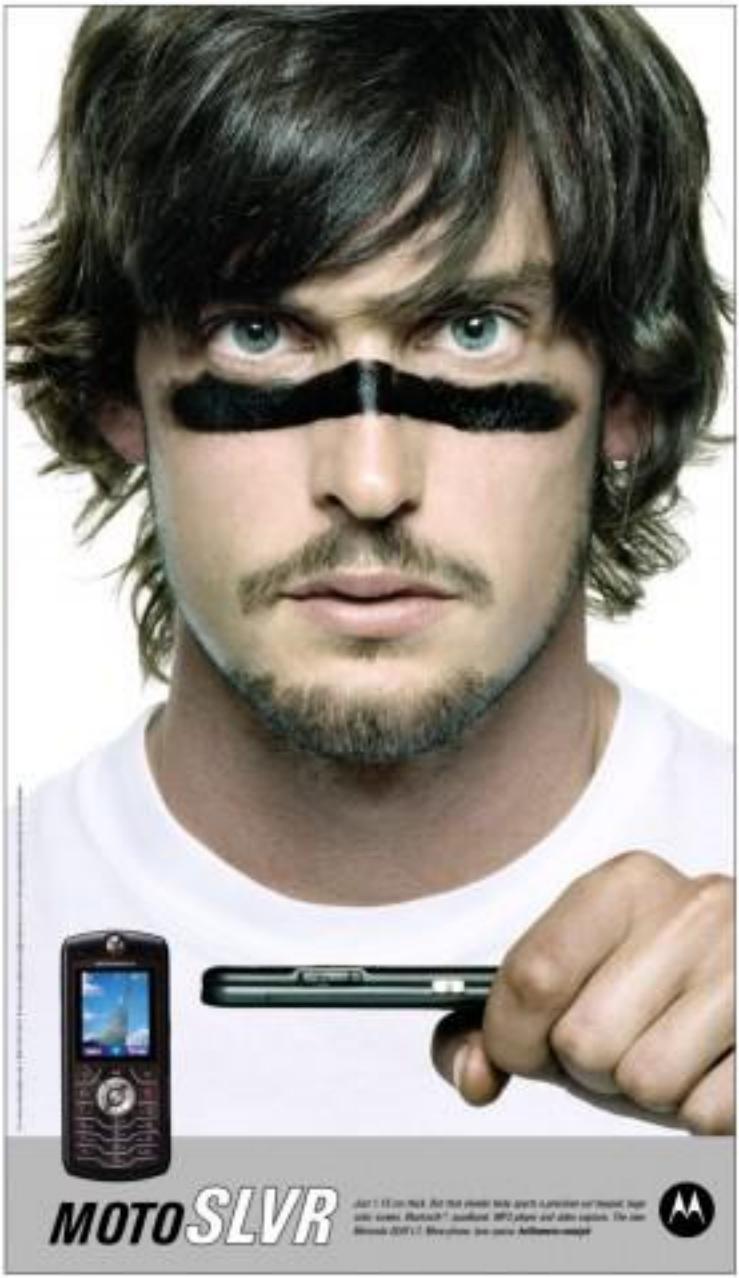
Rockstars. a drug dealer. junkies. prostitutes. a 'yaya.' one heck of a movie

BOYS IN THE BAND. Now on the reel is "Heaven is Friends?" playing

e you?

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON... Rock, baby rock!

Where were ya?



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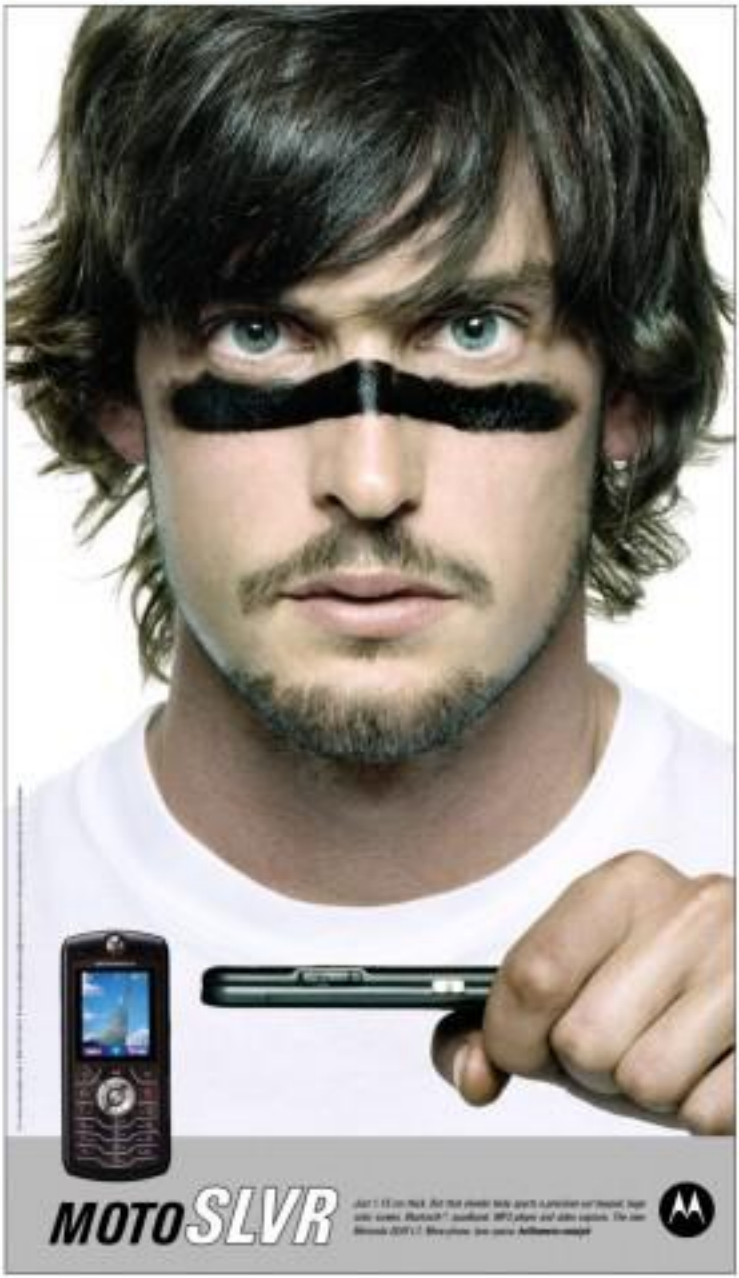
Where were ya?